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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 3 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to advise Your Excellency that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia holds the Presidency of the League of Arab States for 2007 and that the 19th Arab Summit was held in Riyadh from 28 to 29 March 2007.

I enclose the resolutions of the above-mentioned Arab Summit for Your Excellency to take such measures as you see fit with regard to issuing these as a document of the 61st session of the General Assembly, under items 13, 14, 87, 93 and 100, for circulation to Member States of the United Nations.

Please accept my fullest appreciation and respect.

(*Signed*) Abdullatif H. **Sallam**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-35776 (E) 090707

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level

19th Ordinary Session
Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
28-29 March 2007

League of Arab States

LAS Secretariat General
LAS Council Division
LAS Council Affairs Directorate

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- Address of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, to the opening session
- Address of Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to the opening session
- Communique of the meeting of regional and international organizations on the peace process in Darfur
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Resolutions

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level
19th Ordinary Session
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28-29 March 2007

Reports to the Summit

Report of the Presidency on the activity of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having listened to the speech of His Excellency Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan and President of the 18th ordinary session,

Having studied the report of His Excellency Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan, to their Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses, the Kings, Presidents and Emirs of the Arab States on follow-up to the implementation of the resolutions of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level (Khartoum, March 2006),

Having studied the final report of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments and the memorandum of the Secretariat-General,

And pursuant to the statutes of the Committee,

Resolves

To express gratitude to His Excellency Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan and President of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, the Member States of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments and the Secretary-General for their commendable efforts in monitoring implementation of the resolutions of the 18th ordinary session of the Summit (Khartoum, 2006).

(Summit resolution 362, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the report of the Secretary-General on various aspects of Joint Arab Action, the annex to the Secretary-General's report on the Status of Development and Modernization in the Arab World and the memorandum of the Secretariat-General,

Resolves

1. To commend the Secretary-General's report on Joint Arab Action in the period between the two Summits;

2. To take note of the contents of the follow-up report on the Status of Development and Modernization in the Arab World, express gratitude to the

Secretary-General and affirm that periodic reports on this matter shall be submitted to the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level.

(Summit resolution 363, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Arab Consultative Summits

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Pursuant to resolution 329 (Khartoum, 29 March 2006) calling for an Arab Consultative Summit to be held to examine recent issues and coordinate the higher positions and policies of the Arab States,

Having studied article 3 of the mechanism for convening the ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, resolution 6667 (6 September 2006) of the 126th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level, the working papers submitted in this regard by the Arab Republic of Egypt and Secretariat-General of the League, and the report of the ministerial meeting preparatory to the Riyadh Summit in this regard,

Resolves

1. To endorse the convening of an Arab Consultative Summit to address important or pressing Arab issues requiring consultation for harmonized or common positions to be adopted;

2. The Council of Arab Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of the League shall be responsible for preparing for the consultative summit;

3. Any Member State and the Secretary-General of the League shall be entitled to call for a consultative summit to be convened, with the agreement of two-thirds of Member States;

4. Discussion at the consultative summit shall be restricted to the matter for which the summit was convened; sessions shall be closed and public statements shall not be issued;

5. The convening of a consultative summit shall at no time interfere with the requirement to hold the ordinary session of the summit in March each year.

(Summit resolution 364, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

The call for a special Arab conference to discuss economic, social and development issues

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum submitted by the State of Kuwait and the Arab Republic of Egypt,

In furtherance of Arab Summit resolutions concerning the development and activation of the Joint Arab Action system, the need for reform and modernization in the Arab world, and in appreciation of all the efforts of the various agencies and specialized organs of the League in formulating an integrated strategy for growth, development and reform,

Taking into consideration the importance of economic, social and development aspects of the concept of comprehensive Arab security,

Resolves

1. To convene an Arab conference devoted exclusively to economic, social and development issues to formulate practical programmes and mechanisms to foster and advance sustainable, agreed development strategies;

2. To charge the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States with the preparations for this summit in coordination with specialized Arab organizations and ministerial councils, Arab chambers of commerce and businessmen's organizations, while taking into consideration the following:

   (a) How to encourage the private sector as one of the basic pillars of joint economic and development activity;

   (b) The timescale required for programmes and projects to bear fruit;

   (c) Careful choice of the economic and development projects required such that they produce tangible and direct benefits for Arab citizens and foster economic integration in the Arab world;

   (d) Concern with the fostering of bilateral and regional agreements to serve the long-term interests of Joint Arab Action;

   (e) Giving priority to infrastructure projects, such as road and aviation networks, electricity interconnection and telecommunications;

   (f) The formulation of special programmes for several Arab States to suit their economic circumstances and institutional capabilities;

3. The Economic and Social Council shall submit a report to the next ordinary session of the Council of the League at ministerial level which shall contain the stages completed in preparation for this summit, including the draft agenda and other preparatory documents and activities.

(Summit resolution 365, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Arab National Security

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action and resolution no 331 of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level on the establishment of the Arab Peace and Security Council and its statutes,

Taking into consideration the provisions of articles 5, 6 and 8 of the Charter of the League of Arab States, article 2 of the annex on the convening of the summit, article 52 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Document of the Covenant, Accord and Solidarity between the leaders of the Arab States and the Document of Development and Modernization, both issued by the Tunis Summit (2004), articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Joint Defence and Economic Cooperation Treaty between

the Arab League States and articles 3, 6 and 7 of the statutes of the Arab Peace and Security Council,

Reaffirming the importance of safeguarding the peace, independence and regional security of Member States and the peace and stability of the region, strengthening relations between the States of the League of Arab States and settling disputes that may arise between them by peaceful means,

Conscious of the danger and range of threats facing the Arab world and which are not limited to threats against the peace, security, stability and sovereignty of the Arab States and unity of their national territory,

Welcoming the memoranda of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt on Arab national security and the discussions thereon,

Resolves

1. To affirm that the issues of Arab national security require to be addressed from a comprehensive and multi-faceted perspective, taking into consideration the sources and forms of the political, security, economic, cultural and social threats both from outside and within the Arab countries;

2. To form a working group, with a membership of experts, to study and define the nature of the current and future dangers and challenges facing the Arab nation, to draft proposals for coordination between the different mechanisms within the framework of the League of Arab States relating to Arab national security, to prepare means of developing and activating treaties and implementing relevant agreements and resolutions and to draft practical proposals for developing forms of cooperation and integration between the Arab States in areas relevant to Arab security, making use of the network of specialized Arab strategic research centres;

3. To put the conclusions of the working group before a special meeting of the Council of the League at foreign ministerial level in order for the appropriate resolution to be taken in preparation for submission to the 128th ordinary session;

4. To call upon Member States which have not yet ratified the statutes of the Arab Peace and Security Council to expedite ratification;

5. To call upon the Secretary-General to take measures to ensure the implementation of this resolution, to coordinate between the work of these experts and other ongoing activities under the resolutions of the 19th Summit and to submit a report on the conclusions and recommendations of the study to the next summit.

(Summit resolution 366, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Political Issues

The Palestinian issue and developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict

Activation of the Arab Peace Initiative

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action and final report of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments,

Recalling Summit resolution 221 (Beirut, 28 March 2002) which launched the Arab Peace Initiative,

Reaffirming the Arab commitment to a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic choice, that the peace process is a comprehensive, indivisible process, that a just and comprehensive peace in the region can only be achieved by full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, to the line of 4 June 1967 and the lands still under occupation in southern Lebanon, and by reaching a just solution to the problem of the Palestinian refugees agreed in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 (1948), the rejection of all forms of resettlement and affirmation of the establishment of a sovereign and independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital,

Having reviewed the Arab and international efforts to revive the peace process,

Resolves

1. To affirm the commitment of all the Arab States to all the elements of the Arab Peace Initiative adopted at the Beirut Summit (2002), based on the resolutions and principles of international legitimacy, to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and bring about a just and comprehensive peace which will achieve security for all States in the region and enable the Palestinian people to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital;

2. To reaffirm the call to the Israeli Government and all Israelis to accept the Arab Peace Initiative and seize the opportunity afforded to restart serious, direct peace negotiations on all trajectories;

3. To charge the Arab ministerial committee on the Arab Peace Initiative to continue its efforts and to form working teams to carry out the necessary liaison with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Member States of the Security Council, the Quartet and parties concerned with the peace process in order to restart the process, mobilize support for this initiative and commence serious negotiations on the basis of agreed terms of reference namely, the relevant United Nations resolutions, the principle of land for peace and the impermissibility of acquiring the territory of others by force;

4. To charge the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level with continuing to assess the situation regarding the effectiveness of current peace efforts and to formulate further measures in the light of this assessment.

(Summit resolution 367, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Support for the Palestinian Government of National Unity

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Recalling that the Arab States have resolved to follow a clear strategy based upon the Arab Peace Initiative,

Taking note of the commitment of the Palestinian Government of National Unity to the resolutions of Arab Summits,

In the light of the discussions of the ministerial meeting preparatory to the Riyadh Summit,

Resolves

1. To affirm full support for the Mecca Agreement reached under the generous auspices of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, to express the utmost appreciation for the efforts of brotherly Arab States, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference which contributed to reaching the agreement which produced a government of national unity, and to call for the support of all Arab States for the Palestinian President and Government – the Government of National Unity – to enable it to meet the needs and achieve the national interests and goals of the Palestinian people;

2. That the Arab States support the Palestinian National Authority and Palestinian Government of National Unity and reject any dealings with the blockade imposed upon the Palestinian people, in all its manifestations;

3. To appeal to States and international organizations for this blockade to be lifted immediately, to support and recognize the Palestinian Government of National Unity and deal with it without discrimination and for Member States to carry out the necessary liaison with the relevant international parties;

4. To condemn the political, economic and military blockade, all Israeli aggression and the measures it has taken which have led to heavy loss of life and property, to make Israel, as the occupying power, bear the responsibility for compensating the Palestinian people for all these losses and to put pressure on Israel to release the tax funds due to the Palestinian National Authority;

5. To call upon the international community to resume support for the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian people, respect their democratic choice and affirm the responsibility of international parties to support the Palestinian people and national economy to meet the development and aid needs in the occupied Palestinian territories and keep pace with the economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian National Authority.

(Summit resolution 368, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Developments in the Palestinian issue

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Recalling the resolutions of Arab summits, particularly Beirut (2002), Sharm el-Sheikh (2003), Tunis (2004), Algiers (2005) and Khartoum (2006),

Cautioning of the danger of Israel's continued disregard of peaceful Arab and international efforts, defiance of the resolutions of international legitimacy and adoption of unilateral measures,

Affirming the importance of Palestinian national unity as the sole means of protecting the Palestinian national project,

Resolves

1. To reaffirm the Arab commitment to a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic choice, that the peace process is a comprehensive, indivisible process and that a just and comprehensive peace in the region can only be achieved by complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, to the line of 4 June 1967 and the lands still under occupation in southern Lebanon, by reaching a just solution to the problem of the Palestinian refugees agreed in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 (1948), the rejection of all forms of resettlement and the establishment of a sovereign and independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, in keeping with the Arab Peace Initiative and the appropriate resolutions of international legitimacy;

2. To condemn Israeli excavations beneath and in the vicinity of the al-Aqsa Mosque which are threatening its collapse, to call upon concerned international organizations and institutions, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to assume their responsibilities for safeguarding the Islamic and Christian holy places in East Jerusalem, affirm the Arab identity of Jerusalem and reject all illegal Israeli measures designed to Judaize and annex the city;

3. To affirm the illegality of Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land which represent a violation of international law, United Nations resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention, and to affirm the need to resist the attempts of the Israeli Government to implement unilateral measures and create new facts on the ground;

4. To put pressure on Israel to release all Palestinian prisoners and detainees currently languishing in the jails of the occupation and whose numbers exceed 10,000, including the Chairman and several members of the Legislative Council, as well as the abducted ministers, and to demand that Israel ceases its disregard of this issue and apply the rules and laws of international legitimacy, at the forefront of which are international law, international humanitarian law and the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949);

5. To request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to exert prompt efforts and take all measures necessary to achieve the immediate and unconditional release of female Palestinian prisoners and children in Israeli jails and offer

protection to them in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (October 2000) and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, particularly resolution 48/3 (March 2004) of the 48th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women;

6. To demand that the Security Council assumes its responsibilities toward the Palestinian people and sends international observers to protect them from the ongoing massacres and aggression and to pressurize Israel to stop completely and without delay its continuing outrages, military operations and violations of international law. As the occupying power, Israel must be compelled to adhere to the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) and the legal opinion of the International Court of Justice on the racist separation wall;

7. To charge the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States with assisting the Government of Iraq and the Palestinian National Authority to find a quick solution to providing protection and a decent life for the Palestinian refugees in Iraq;

8. To affirm that the Presidency of the Council of the League, the Arab Member State of the Security Council, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Member States of the Arab Peace Initiative Committee shall continue to be charged with conducting the consultations necessary to monitor implementation of this resolution.

(Summit resolution 369, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

An Arab programme to complete and support specialized Palestinian institutions and qualify Palestinian technical staff in preparation for the establishment of a Palestinian State and administration of its civil affairs

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

In support of the existing institutions of the Palestinian National Authority, to enhance their capabilities and readiness to assume their responsibilities in administering civil life in the current and post-independence phases and to establish a fully sovereign Palestinian State on the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital,

Having studied the speech of H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas, the declaration of the formation of the Palestinian Government of National Unity (16 March 2007), the statement of the Palestinian Government of National Unity immediately after formation, and the serious projects and plans contained in this programme to address the challenges of Palestinian economic and societal development and the completion of the necessary regulatory and administrative structures to administer the vital affairs of all groups of the Palestinian people,

Having studied the memorandum of the Arab Republic of Egypt in this regard,

Resolves

1. To welcome the declaration of the formation of the Palestinian Government of National Unity on 16 March 2007 and to consider that an important political step toward restarting the peace process, achieving independence and establishing the desired Palestinian State;

2. To call upon the Secretariat-General, the Economic and Social Council and specialized Arab organizations to coordinate with the Palestinian National Authority in conducting comprehensive studies designed to formulate appropriate programmes for the completion and support of the regulatory and administrative structures and the institutional and technical capabilities necessary to administer the civil affairs of Palestinian society, raise the level of public services and increase the productive capacity of Palestinian economic enterprises in a manner consistent with the priorities of Palestinian state-building in the areas of manufacturing and services, through Arab-Palestinian cooperative programmes and projects of, with the participation of international cooperation agencies, training organizations and Arab development finance funds, paying due attention to meeting priority needs which have a direct impact upon the lives of Palestinian citizens;

3. To present the results of these studies, via the Economic and Social Council, to the next ordinary session of the Council of the League at ministerial level.

(Summit resolution 370, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Support for the budget of the Palestinian National Authority and steadfastness of the Palestinian people

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Affirming the importance of Member States paying the obligatory contributions in support of the Palestinian National Authority budget in accordance with the resolutions of Arab Summits in Beirut (2002), Sharm el-Sheikh (2003), Tunis (2004), Algiers (2005) and Khartoum (2006),

Resolves

1. To extend gratitude to those Arab States which have met their financial obligations in whole or in part in support of the resources of the al-Aqsa Fund and Intifada Al-Quds Fund, in accordance with the decisions of the extraordinary summit in Cairo (2000) and resolution of the 14th ordinary session of the Council of the League at summit level (Beirut, 2002), to call upon those States which have not fulfilled their obligations to do so promptly and to appeal for the provision of additional support to boost the steadfastness of the Palestinian people;

2. To extend gratitude to those Arab States which have fulfilled their commitments in support of the budget of the Palestinian National Authority, to call upon other Arab States to settle their arrears as soon as possible, to affirm the importance of committing to the implementation of Arab summit resolutions regarding continued support for the budget of the Palestinian National Authority and to charge the Secretariat-General with continuing to issue reports showing the status of payment and circulate these to Member States;

3. To call upon the Arab States to continue to support the budget of the Palestinian National Authority in accordance with the resolutions of previous Arab summits and for a period of one year with effect from 1 April 2007;

4. To extend gratitude and appreciation to the friendly States whose recent support has been an extremely important source of assistance to the budget of the Palestinian National Authority and to affirm the importance of continuing and increasing such support.

(Summit resolution 371, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Israel's inscription of Jerusalem on its preliminary list in the UNESCO World Heritage List

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Resolves

1. To condemn the measures taken by Israel in breach of the rules of international law and provisions of international humanitarian law;

2. That the Arab States, particularly those who are members of the World Heritage Committee, contact Member States of the Committee to urge them not to inscribe Jerusalem on the Israeli preliminary list on the World Heritage List as this conflicts with international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy;

3. To form a working group consisting of the Member States of the Committee (Tunisia, Kuwait and Morocco), the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) to monitor developments in the situation until the Committee meets in New Zealand on 23 June 2007.

(Summit resolution 372, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

The occupied Syrian Arab Golan

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Affirming the resolutions of Arab Summit conferences, of which the last was resolution 338 (Khartoum, 29 March 2006) of the 18th ordinary session,

Resolves

1. To affirm the firm support and backing of the Arab States for Syria's just and rightful demand to recover the entire occupied Syrian Arab Golan up to the line of 4 June 1967, on the basis of the principles of the peace process and resolutions of international legitimacy and pursuant to achievements within the framework of the Peace Conference launched in Madrid in 1991;

2. To reaffirm all its resolutions, of which the last was 338 (Khartoum, 29 March 2006), stipulating the rejection of all measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at changing the legal, natural and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and to consider Israeli measures designed to reinforce its control as illegal, null and void and a violation of international agreements, the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations, in particular resolution 497 (1981) of the Security Council and resolution 27/61 (1 December 2006) of the 61st session of the General Assembly affirming that Israel's decision of 14 December 1981 to annex the occupied Syrian Arab Golan is illegal, null and void, without legal force and represents a grave violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981);

3. To reaffirm that the occupation of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan since 1967 represents a continuing threat to peace and security in the region and the world;

4. To condemn Israeli practices in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan in respect of the seizure of land and water resources, the building of a dam near the town Quneitra to steal water and deprive Syrian farmers of the most important source of water for the irrigation of their farms and watering of their cattle, the construction and expansion of settlements and transporting of settlers thereto, the exploitation of natural resources, the construction of projects, the most recent of which was the announcement of a tender for the sale of ten zones in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan for the establishment of vineyards and wineries, and the imposition of an economic boycott on the agricultural produce of the Arab population and forbidding its export;

5. To affirm the Arab position of full solidarity with Syria and Lebanon, standing with them in confronting the continuing Israeli aggression and threats, considering any aggression against them as aggression against the Arab nation, and to condemn the economic sanctions imposed on Syria;

6. To support the steadfastness of the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, standing beside them in their resistance to the Israeli occupation and its repressive practices and their determination to hold on to their land and Syrian Arab identity; to affirm the need to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) to the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan; and to condemn, on the basis of the principles of international law and tenets of international legality, the Israeli occupation authorities for their gross violations of all the rights of the Syrian inhabitants, young and old, living under occupation in the Golan, resulting in the displacement and expulsion of thousands, the pillage of their lands, the separation of families and the consequences of this situation on the lives of the children and their education, in addition to numerous other violations of children's rights in contravention of international obligations arising from the international Convention on the Rights of the Child;

7. To condemn the practices and provocations of the Israeli occupation forces against the inhabitants of the Syrian village of Ghajar in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, with the aim of partitioning it, displacing its inhabitants and constructing a separation wall between the inhabitants and their lands and livelihood. Israel's forcible transfer of the civilian population to the southern part of the village is a violation of international humanitarian law, especially

the Fourth Geneva Convention and, according to article 7 of the Statutes of the International Criminal Court, "a crime against humanity", falling within its jurisdiction and punishable. Any partition is designed to infringe Syrian sovereignty over the village. The international community is called upon to assume its responsibilities to pressurize Israel to stop it from partitioning the village, put an end to the humanitarian, social and economic suffering of its inhabitants labouring under the occupation and support Syria in reserving its right to take whatever measures are necessary to prevent partition of the village;

8. To uphold the resolutions of international legality requiring non-recognition of any situation resulting from Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab lands, considering this to be illegal activity from which neither right nor obligation arises and that the establishment of settlements and the housing of settlers therein represents a serious violation of the Geneva Conventions, a war crime under the First Protocol additional thereto and a violation of the principles of the peace process which require that all Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and the occupied Arab territories be terminated;

9. To urge the international community to uphold the resolutions of international legality rejecting Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan by condemning the practices of the Israeli Government, which declared its intention on 31 December 2003 of establishing seven new settlements, expanding existing ones, doubling the number of settlers and allocating the approvals necessary to implement this, contrary to the peaceful Arab and international approaches aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of the resolutions of international legality and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Beirut Summit (2002);

10. To condemn the policy of the Israeli Government which has wrecked the peace process and led to the continued escalation of tension in the region and to call upon the international community, in particular the sponsors of the Madrid Peace Conference and the European Union, to induce Israel to apply the resolutions of the United Nations on full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and all occupied Arab territories to the line of 4 June 1967.

(Summit resolution 373, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Solidarity with and support for Lebanon

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Affirming previous resolutions in this regard, of which the last was resolution 399 (Khartoum, 29 March 2006) of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League at summit level,

Taking note of recent domestic and international developments in relation to Lebanon,

Resolves

1. To salute the steadfastness of Lebanon and its heroic resistance to the iniquitous Israeli aggression, to ask God to have mercy on the souls of the Lebanese martyrs and to consider the solidarity and unity of the Lebanese people in the face of aggression to be a guarantee of the future security and stability of Lebanon;

2. To affirm full Arab solidarity with Lebanon and provide political and economic support to Lebanon and its Government to safeguard Lebanese national unity, its security and stability and sovereignty over all its territory;

3. To commend the national role played by the Lebanese army in the South and in all regions of the country, pursuant to the decision of the Lebanese Government, to support the task of the army, as determined by the Lebanese Cabinet in extending the sovereignty of the Lebanese State over all its territory and to extend gratitude to brotherly and friendly States for their contribution to the strengthening of UNIFIL forces, as provided for in Security Council resolution 1701 (2006);

4. To affirm the need to achieve a secure and lasting ceasefire, to condemn Israeli violations and breaches of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and make Israeli bear the responsibility for such violations, to call upon the Security Council to assume its responsibilities to compel Israel to observe a complete ceasefire and stop its land, sea and air violations of Lebanese sovereignty and to affirm Lebanon's right over its territorial waters in accordance with international law, in the face of Israeli ambitions;

5. To welcome the seven-point plan put forward by the Lebanese Government and to call upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Security Council to adopt the Lebanese proposal on the Shebaa Farms area contained in this plan when the Secretary-General of the United Nations submits his proposals on this issue, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and to call upon all concerned parties to cooperate with the United Nations in finding a solution to this issue which will guarantee Lebanon's rights;

6. To make Israel bear full responsibility for the aggression to which Lebanon was subjected in the summer of 2006, the results thereof and the intentional targeting of civilians and infrastructure, which represents a grave and serious breach of international law, particularly of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions (1949), and to make Israel bear responsibility, too, for compensating the Lebanese Republic and Lebanese citizens for the grievous direct and indirect losses suffered by the Lebanese people and economy as a result of Israeli aggression;

7. To consider that Israel's aggression against Lebanon constitutes a war crime, the perpetrators of which must be prosecuted before the competent international authorities, and to welcome the resolution adopted unanimously by the Human Rights Council (8 December 2006) commending the report and recommendations of the Investigation Committee set up by the Council on 11 August 2006 which condemned Israeli violations of human rights during the recent aggression against Lebanon;

8. To extend gratitude to Member States for their efforts to assist Lebanon in providing aid to victims, reconstruction and the support pledged at the Arab and international conference on support for Lebanon (Paris III, 25 January 2007);

9. To commend the Arab and international conference on support for Lebanon (Paris III) called for by the praiseworthy French Government, the significant results thereof and the paper on the programme of economic and social reform and resurgence presented by the Lebanese Government to modernize and boost the Lebanese economy, foster sustainable rates of growth and improve the living conditions of all Lebanese;

10. To adopt the plan to support Lebanon in the phase of reconstruction and economic development formulated by the Economic and Social Council meeting in extraordinary session (Beirut, 16-17 October 2006), to urge Member States to speed up implementation of its resolutions, to extend gratitude to those Member States and Arab funds which have in the past provided aid and financial assistance to the Lebanese Government and to request other Member States to fulfil the commitments agreed at Arab Summit conferences relating to support for Lebanon, the steadfastness of its people and its reconstruction;

11. To affirm support for Lebanon in respect of:

(a) Its sovereign right to exercise its political choices within constitutional principles and institutions, taking into consideration its right to establish relations with brotherly and friendly States on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and independence, its national interests, good neighbourliness, and equality;

(b) Its demand for the release of Lebanese prisoners and detainees held in Israeli prisons as hostages, in contravention of international law, the International Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions (1949) and the Hague Convention (1907), and its demand that the international community put pressure on Israel for their release and that representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations be enabled to visit all Lebanese detainees on a continuous basis to inspect conditions and provide medical care;

(c) Its demand for the removal of hundreds of thousands of mines left behind by the Israeli occupation, for the laying of which and the resulting civilian deaths and injuries Israel is responsible, and for Israel to provide the United Nations with all the remaining maps of landmines on Lebanese territory and maps of the network of cluster bombs dropped on Lebanon during the war of July 2006;

(d) Its demand for the international community and judicial and political bodies to pressurize Israel to pay compensation to Lebanon for the damage and losses resulting from its occupation and repeated aggression against Lebanese territory;

12. To affirm, within the framework of Lebanese agreement on the principle of establishing a court of an international character, that uncovering the truth of the terrorist crime of the assassination of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and

his companions and other terrorist crimes of assassination since the attempted assassination of Minister Marwan Hamadeh, and bringing the accused before a court of an international character – in accordance with the court system adopted by agreement among the Lebanese and established pursuant to Security Council resolutions nos. 1644 and 1664 and at the request of the Lebanese Government, in accordance with constitutional principles and statutes – to deliver just punishment in an atmosphere free from revenge and politicking, will contribute to establishing justice and strengthening the faith of the Lebanese in freedom in their country and their commitment to the democratic system; it will also contribute to consolidating security and stability in Lebanon and the region;

13. To affirm the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and to caution that failure to solve the issue of refugees resident in Lebanon on the basis of a return to their homes in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and principles of international law, or attempts to resettle them, will destabilize the region and hinder the achievement of a just peace. The decision of the Lebanese Government to form a working party tasked with holding discussions with Palestinian representatives to address the vital social, economic, legal and security issues of Palestinian refugees in the camps and those resident in Lebanon, in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is welcomed;

14. To affirm condemnation of international terrorism, in the fight against which the Arab States are actively engaged and the importance and necessity of distinguishing between terrorism and legitimate resistance against Israeli occupation – that is, resistance activity must not be considered a terrorist act and, consequently, resistance fighters must not be included on lists of terrorists;

15. On the basis of the affirmation by Arab States of the unity of all factions and sects of the Lebanese people and to safeguard Lebanese sovereignty, security and independence, preserve national kinship among all its people and ensure its stability, which has enormous importance for the security and stability of the region, given that Lebanon is an indivisible part of the Arab nation, the Council invites all Lebanese factions and forces to a national dialogue on the basis of Lebanese common interests and the achievements at the level of national consensus, with the aim of reaching solutions to confound all those who seek to manipulate Lebanon's national security and stability. The Council also calls upon all Lebanese to exert the utmost effort to reach a solution to the current political crisis, unrest and divisions, enabling them to avert dangers, establish the rule of law throughout the whole of the country and adhere to the Lebanese Constitution and the Ta'if Agreement, thereby safeguarding the security, stability and unity of Lebanon and its higher interests. The Council affirms the resolve of all Arab States to provide all forms of support and assistance possible to their brothers in Lebanon to achieve this, in accordance with Arab Summit resolutions;

16. To commend and bolster the efforts of the Secretary-General and the current and previous Summit Presidencies, in consultation with the Arab States, Lebanese constitutional institutions and various political forces, to resolve the

political crisis which Lebanon is going through and safeguard its unity, security and stability.

(Summit resolution 374, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Developments in the situation in Iraq

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Affirming resolution 264 of the 16th ordinary session (Tunis, 23 May 2004), resolution 299 of the 17th ordinary session (Algiers, 23 March 2005) and resolution 340 of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States (Khartoum, 29 March 2006),

Recalling the recommendations of the two international conferences on Iraq held in Sharm el-Sheikh (22-23 November 2004) and Brussels (22 June 2005),

Taking note of Security Council resolution 1618 (2005), condemning all terrorist acts in Iraq,

Commending the efforts of the Ministerial Committee on Iraq, the Committee's statement of 5 December 2006, the results of the meetings of neighbouring States, particularly the meetings of ministers of foreign affairs and of the interior, and the Baghdad meeting of 10 March 2007, affirming the sovereignty, unity and political independence of Iraq, non-interference in its internal affairs and the need to assist the Government and people of Iraq to establish security and stability,

Commending the resolution on the situation in Iraq of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference adopted at its 34th session in Azerbaijan,

Having listened to the presentation by the chairman of the delegation of the Republic of Iraq,

Resolves

1. To affirm that the Arab concept of a political and security solution to the challenges facing the Iraqi people relies on the following key elements:

   - Respect for the unity, sovereignty and independence of Iraq and its Arab-Islamic identity, rejection of calls for its partition and affirmation of non-interference in its internal affairs;

   - That to achieve stability in Iraq and overcome the current crisis requires a parallel security and political solution to address the causes of the crisis and eradicate sectarian strife and terrorism;

   - To affirm respect for the will of all elements of the Iraqi people to determine their political future and that the achievement of security and stability is the responsibility of the Government of National Unity, the constitutional institutions and the Iraqi political leadership, with the support and assistance of the Arab States and neighbouring States for all efforts,

including those of the Iraqi Government, to achieve national reconciliation by achieving the following:

- To widen the political process to achieve wider participation of the various elements of the Iraqi people;
- To confront sectarianism and endeavour to remove it once and for all, to repudiate and resist groups which seek to ignite civil strife and to convene the inclusive Conference on Iraqi National Accord at the earliest and most opportune time;
- To speed up the constitutional review of the disputed articles of the Constitution to achieve Iraqi national accord in accordance with resolved and agreed mechanisms;
- To review the law on the Supreme National Commission for Deba'athification to foster national reconciliation efforts;
- To affirm equality of citizenship as a basis for building the new Iraq;
- To strive for a just distribution of the wealth of Iraq across all regions of the country and to all groups of people;
- The dissolution by the Government of the various militias in Iraq and working to put an end to armed attacks;
- To expedite the building and qualification of the Iraqi armed forces and security forces on a national and professional basis, leading to the departure of all foreign forces from Iraq;

2. To affirm the importance of the neighbouring States playing an active role in helping Iraq to strengthen security and stability, non-intervention in its internal affairs, resist terrorism, stop acts of terrorism which threaten the unity of its territory and people, support the efforts to achieve Iraqi national reconciliation and accord and, likewise, affirm the importance of coordination and cooperation between their security agencies to strengthen border controls and prevent infiltration across their common borders with Iraq;

3. To take cognizance of the communiqué issued by the meeting in Baghdad (10 March 2007) of neighbouring States, the permanent Member States of the Security Council and regional and international organizations;

4. To commit to the implementation of paragraph 7 of resolution 340 (2007) of the Khartoum Summit, to respond immediately to Iraq's request to reopen Arab diplomatic missions in Iraq and to encourage Arab political and popular initiatives, such as visits and exchange delegations to foster Arab contacts with Iraq;

5. To condemn vigorously the terrorist attacks targeting the people and institutions of Iraq as a threat to peace and security as stated in Security Council resolution 1618 (2005), to welcome the serious steps taken by the Iraqi Government to implement the security plan to impose law, pursue the centres of violence, terrorism and threats to the security of citizens and arrest the armed killers from terrorist organizations, the remnants of the previous regime, death squads, militias and organized criminal gangs, and to support Government measures to withdraw illegal weapons, provide services, enable

the return of displaced persons to their regions and homes and implement a programme of national reconciliation;

6. To support the efforts of the Iraqi Government to reconstruct its security institutions on national and professional bases and the active Arab participation in those efforts by training the Iraqi army and police and making an effective contribution to the training of qualified Iraqi staff in various fields;

7. To welcome the goals and basic principles contained in the document of the International Covenant with Iraq, adopted officially at the conference held at United Nations headquarters on 16 March 2007;

8. To affirm the prompt cancellation by Member States of Iraqi debt, in implementation of paragraph 15 of resolution 340 (Khartoum, 29 March 2006) of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League at summit level;

9. To welcome the decision of the Secretary-General to maintain the mission of the League of Arab States in Iraq in order to continue its work and maintain contact with the Iraqi Government and people, to expedite the appointment of a new ambassador to head the mission, and to affirm the importance of continuing the efforts of the Arab League to achieve Iraqi national accord;

10. To call upon Arab States which have not paid their contributions toward covering the costs of opening the Arab League mission in Iraq to do so promptly and to extend gratitude to States which have paid their contributions;

11. To condemn once more the grave violations of human rights that occurred during the occupation of the State of Kuwait and the expunging of the facts relating to Kuwaiti and other prisoners and missing persons, some of whose remains have been found in mass graves; to express deep condolences to the families of the victims whose remains have been identified and concern at the ordeal of those whose location remains unknown; and to demand that all efforts be made to discover the fate of all Kuwaiti and other missing persons and prisoners;

12. To request the Ministerial Committee on Iraq to monitor efforts and strengthen contacts with the various regional and international parties to help Iraq overcome the present challenges;

13. To request the Secretary-General to monitor the situation and submit a report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Council.

(Summit resolution 375, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

The Iranian occupation of the Arabian Gulf islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, belonging to the United Arab Emirates

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Affirming previous resolutions in this regard, of which the last was resolution 341 (Khartoum, 29 March 2006) of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League at summit level on the occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the

Arabian Gulf islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, belonging to the United Arab Emirates,

Resolves

1. To affirm unreservedly the full sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the three islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and to support all peaceful measures and means taken by the United Arab Emirates to regain sovereignty over its occupied islands;

2. To reject the continued occupation by the Government of Iran of the three islands and violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates, thereby destabilizing the security of the region and causing a threat to international peace and security;

3. To condemn the construction by the Iranian Government of housing facilities to settle Iranians in the three occupied Arab islands;

4. To condemn Iranian military manoeuvres around the three occupied islands – Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa – of the United Arab Emirates and in the territorial waters, airspace, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of the three islands, which are an indivisible part of the United Arab Emirates, and to demand that Iran refrains from such violations and provocative actions, which are considered to be an interference in the internal affairs of an independent, sovereign State, are not helpful in building trust, threaten the region's security and stability and put the security and safety of regional and international shipping in the Arabian Gulf at risk;

5. To call once more upon the Government of Iran to end its occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, refrain from de facto imposition by force, stop the construction of any facilities on the islands designed to alter their population and demographic composition, annul all measures and remove all facilities constructed unilaterally by Iran on the three Arab islands, since such measures and claims are null and void, have no legal force, do not diminish the United Arab Emirates' firm right to its three islands and are actions in violation of international law and the Geneva Convention (1949), and to demand that Iran follows peaceful means to resolve the dispute in accordance with the principles and rules of international law, including accepting referral of the case to the International Court of Justice;

6. To express the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will reconsider its refusal to find a peaceful solution to the issue of the three occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, either through serious and direct negotiations or by referral to the International Court of Justice;

7. To demand that Iran translate its declared wish for improved relations, dialogue and removal of tension with the Arab States into practical and tangible measures, in word and deed, by responding genuinely to the serious and sincere calls from H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, the States of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf, the Arab States, international blocs, friendly States and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to resolve the dispute over the three occupied islands by peaceful means, in accordance with established practice, the charters and tenets of international law, by serious and direct negotiations

or referral to the International Court of Justice, in order to develop trust and strengthen the security and stability of the Arabian Gulf region;

8. That all Arab States, in their communications with Iran, undertake to raise the issue of its occupation of the three islands in order to underline the necessity of ending it on the grounds that the three islands are occupied Arab territories;

9. To inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations and President of the Security Council of the importance of the issue remaining before the Security Council until Iran ends its occupation of the three Arab islands and the United Arab Emirates recovers full sovereignty over them;

10. To request the Secretary-General to monitor the situation and present a report to the next ordinary session of the Council.

(Summit resolution 376, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Addressing the losses and measures resulting from the dispute over the Lockerbie affair

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Welcoming Security Council resolution 1506 (12 September 2003) requiring the immediate lifting of the sanctions measures imposed on the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,

Affirming resolution 220 (28 March 2002) of the 14th ordinary session, resolution 266 (23 May 2004) of the 16th ordinary session, resolution 301 (23 March 2005) of the 17th ordinary session and resolution 342 (29 March 2006) of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, affirming the legitimate right of the Great Jamahiriya to obtain compensation for the physical and human losses suffered as a result of sanctions and demanding the release of the Libyan national, Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, considering his continued detention to be that of a hostage according to all international laws and established practice,

Taking note of resolution 6679 (6 September 2006) of the 126th ordinary session and resolution 6739 (4 March 2007) of the 127th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level,

Recalling the extensive losses suffered by the Great Jamahiriya as a result of the sanctions imposed upon it,

Resolves

1. To affirm the right of the Great Jamahiriya to seek compensation for the material and human losses caused by the sanctions imposed upon it;

2. To affirm the demand for the release of the Libyan national, Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, considering his continued detention to be that of a hostage according to all international laws and established practice;

3. To request the Secretary-General to monitor implementation of the resolution and submit a report to the next ordinary session of the Council of the League at summit level.

(Summit resolution 377, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Rejection of the unilateral United States sanctions on the Syrian Arab Republic

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Expressing once again surprise and concern at the passing by the United States Congress of the so-called Syria Accountability Act and the executive order signed by the US President on 11 May 2004 decreeing the unilateral imposition of sanctions outside the framework of international legality,

Having taken cognizance of the statements, declarations and resolutions issued by various international governmental quarters and non-governmental organizations expressing the international community's repudiation of any State setting its national legislation above international law with the aim of infringing the sovereignty and interests of other States and peoples,

Observing that the unilateral imposition of arbitrary laws conflicts with the rules and directives of the World Trade Organization, which prohibits measures designed to obstruct the freedom of international trade and shipping,

Expressing surprise at the passing of this Act against an Arab country fundamental to the stability and security of the region at a time when the United States is seeking cooperation with the Arab States to combat international terrorism and achieve the reforms necessary to create the broadest possible partnership between both sides,

Upholding resolution 302 (Algiers, 23 March 2005) of the 17th ordinary session and resolution 343 (Khartoum, 29 March 2006) of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States,

Resolves

1. To reject the so-called Syria Accountability Act as a breach of the principles of international law, resolutions of the United Nations and the Charter of the League of Arab States and as giving primacy to the laws of the United States over international law;

2. Upon full solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic and appreciation of its position calling for the primacy of the language of dialogue and diplomacy as a means of understanding between States and the resolution of disputes between them, and to call upon the United States Administration to enter in good faith into constructive dialogue with Syria to find the best way of settling the issues which hinder improved relations between the two countries;

3. To request the United States to reconsider this Act which is blatantly biased in favour of Israel and a serious infringement of Arab interests, in order to avoid

a deterioration of the situation and squandering of the opportunities to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

4. To affirm the historical, brotherly relations between Lebanon and Syria on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and independence, in the service the interests of both countries;

5. To request the Secretary-General to monitor implementation of this resolution and submits a report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Council.

(Summit resolution 378, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Support for peace, development and unity in the Republic of the Sudan

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Affirming its previous resolutions in this respect,

Affirming respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Sudan and requesting all States to affirm this commitment in practice and support the efforts aimed at achieving peace and national accord among the people of the Sudan,

Expressing great concern at developments in the Darfur region and the humanitarian crisis facing the displaced population and refugees from the region in Chad,

Affirming the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on 9 January 2005 between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement,

Likewise affirming implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement signed in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, on 5 May 2006 between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Movement,

Resolves

I. The Darfur crisis

1. To appreciate the efforts of the League of Arab States, in cooperation with the African Union, United Nations and European Union to address the Darfur crisis, to affirm the importance of the Government of the Sudan and the African Union continuing their efforts to establish security and stability in Darfur and to call upon the African Union, in cooperation with the United Nations and League of Arab States, to sponsor political mediation between he Government of the Sudan and the other signatories to the Abuja Agreement to reach a comprehensive political settlement;

2. To welcome the results of the quadripartite summit held in Tripoli (21 February 2007) at the initiative of Brother Leader Muammar al-Qadhafi, in which the leaders of the Republic of the Sudan, Eritrea and the Republic of Chad took part and which leaders of several armed movements which did not

sign the Abuja Agreement were invited to attend. The summit was devoted to finding a negotiated and peaceful settlement to the conflict in Darfur;

3. To extend gratitude to those States which have paid their contributions or part of their obligations in support of the African Union forces and to call upon Member States which have not paid their financial contributions to fulfil their obligations pursuant to the resolution of the Khartoum Summit;

4. To call upon the armed groups which have not signed the Darfur Peace Agreement to forsake military escalation, to request the international community to exert efforts to prevent military opposition to the agreement or the stirring up of tribal chauvinism inside the displaced persons and refugee camps and to welcome the desire of the Government of the Sudan for dialogue with these groups without affecting the Abuja Agreement;

5. To request the African Arab States to strengthen their participation in the African Union forces and observer mission in Darfur, in affirmation of the importance of the African Union mission in addressing the crisis, in accordance with the signed peace agreement, and to reaffirm that the dispatch of any other forces to Darfur shall require consultation with and the prior agreement of the Government of the Sudan;

6. To call upon the international community to fulfil its obligations to support and rescue the Darfur Peace Agreement and to provide the necessary support, including material support, to the African Union mission in Darfur to enable it to carry out its tasks;

7. To call upon Member States, the organizations and agencies of Joint Arab Action, Arab finance and investment funds, Arab chambers of commerce, Arab civil society organizations and the Arab private sector to participate in the Arab Conference to Support and Address the Humanitarian Situation in Darfur scheduled to be for the first quarter of this year in Khartoum, with a view to providing tangible Arab support to help address humanitarian needs in the wake of the conflict in Darfur and assist the quick return of refugees and displaced persons from Darfur to their homes;

8. To extend gratitude to Member States and Arab civil society organizations which have provided humanitarian assistance to the Darfur region, to call upon specialized ministerial councils and Arab civil society associations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance and the necessary technical support to cover humanitarian needs in Darfur and to affirm the direct presence of Arab States in the Darfur region to provide humanitarian aid to victims, reconstruct war damage and achieve growth.

II. The situation in Southern Sudan

1. To welcome the steps taken to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement signed in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, and to request that both parties continue their efforts to implement the agreement;

2. To charge the Ministerial Committee for the Sudan with monitoring the financial contributions from the Arab States to the Arab fund to support the Sudan in order to develop the south of the country and the war-torn areas, and

to set a timetable for this in accordance with the priorities to be proposed by the Sudanese Government;

3. To call upon Arab States, funds and finance institutions to continue their efforts and participate actively in the 4th Coordinating Meeting for Development and Investment in Southern Sudan in the first half of 2007 to coordinate development-related investment in the south of the country and the war-torn areas, particularly in infrastructure and social and public services;

4. To call upon Member States, the Arab Monetary Fund and Arab finance funds to hold bilateral meetings with the Republic of the Sudan to examine the Sudanese debt they hold, in implementation of the resolution of the Khartoum Summit on the treatment of Sudanese debt;

5. To call upon the Secretariat-General to implement at once the resolution pertaining to the opening of an Arab League office at Juba in Southern Sudan to coordinate Arab aid and contribute to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and to call upon the competent Sudanese authorities to provide the necessary facilities for this;

III. To welcome the signing of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Eastern Sudan Front in the Eritrean capital, Asmara, on 14 October 2006 and to call upon Member States, the organizations and agencies of Joint Arab Action and Arab finance and investment funds to support the Government of the Sudan in implementing the agreement;

IV. To appreciate the efforts of the Secretary-General and request him to continue his efforts with the Government of the Sudan, the Sudanese parties and regional and international bodies in support of peace and reconciliation in the Sudan and to submit a report on this to the next ordinary session of the Council.

(Summit resolution 379, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Support for the Republic of Somalia

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the report of the Secretary-General dealing with the various areas of Joint Arab Action, including the efforts of the Secretariat-General to support the process of Somali national dialogue and reconciliation,

Affirming the need to resolve disputes by peaceful means and in a framework of national dialogue, the consummate desire for Somali sovereignty, regional sovereignty and territorial unity and respect for the vital interests of all Somalis,

Affirming that the formidable challenges facing Somalia in the area of reconstruction and rebuilding require the provision of urgent assistance from Arab Member States and the international community,

Affirming its previous resolutions in this regard,

Resolves

1. To welcome the resolution of the African Union to send African forces to bolster stability in Somalia; to call upon the Secretariat-General to continue to coordinate with the African Union, United Nations and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to ensure prompt implementation of the resolution on the deployment of peacekeeping forces in Somalia to help create stability, provide security and establish the groundwork for peace, making possible Somali national dialogue and reconciliation; and to welcome the decision of the Government of Ethiopia to withdraw its forces from Somalia;

2. To call upon Member States to provide various kinds of support to the Government of Somalia to enable it build state institutions, achieve security, stability and comprehensive national reconciliation and hold the democratic elections stipulated in the Transitional Federal Constitution at local, regional and national level;

3. To welcome the decision of the Transitional Federal Government to call for the convening of a conference on national reconciliation in Somalia on 16 April 2007 and to look forward to the conference witnessing the widest possible participation of representatives of the different factions and groups of the Somali people and affording the opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue on all Somali national issues, thereby preparing the way for general reconciliation, stability and peace in Somalia. Member States and the Secretariat-General shall provide financial and logistic support for this conference;

4. To appreciate the role played by the Secretariat-General, in cooperation with the Republic of the Sudan (holder of the previous Presidency of the Arab Summit) in sponsoring the recent Somali peace talks and to request that the Secretariat-General continues its efforts, in cooperation with all concerned regional and international organizations and the Somali Government, to achieve conditions of reconciliation and stability in Somalia;

5. To welcome the generous invitation by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (holder of the current Presidency of the Arab Summit) to the Ministerial Committee on Somalia to hold its next meeting in Jeddah, with the participation of the Somali Transitional Federal Government and Somali political, national, religious and civil forces to examine the most appropriate means of speeding up the process of Somali national reconciliation, and to request the Secretariat-General, in cooperation with the concerned authorities in the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to take the necessary measures, including conducting the necessary consultations with concerned parties, to ensure the successful organization of this meeting at the earliest possible time;

6. To call upon Member States,' Arab organizations and funds, specialized ministerial councils and Arab civil society organizations to support development in Somalia and contribute to reconstruction;

7. To call upon Member States, the Secretariat-General, the Council of Arab Ministers of Health, the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs and the Federation of Arab Physicians to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the regions of Somalia ravaged by epidemics to alleviate the suffering of the Somali people;

8. To request the Secretariat-General to continue its efforts with the Somali Transitional Federal Government and World Health Organization to upgrade seven hospitals in different regions of Somalia and to dispatch medical convoys to all parts of the country to support the health sector by supplying hospitals with the necessary medications;

9. To call upon Member States to expedite payment of their contributions in respect of the US$ 26,000,000 aid stipulated under resolution 304 (Algiers, 23 May 2005) of the 17th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, via the fund of the Secretariat-General, to be paid in proportion to Member State contributions to the budget of the Secretariat-General in order to meet the urgent needs of the Somali Government, and to extend gratitude to Member States who have paid their contributions in full to the fund;

10. To welcome the coordinating efforts of the Secretariat-General with the Government of Somalia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to implement a project to develop the Somali livestock sector and to call upon Arab States to take the measures necessary to lift the ban on Somali livestock exports;

11. To request the Secretariat-General to continue its efforts, in cooperation with UNDP, to decommission the militias' weapons and to contribute the sum of US$ 1,000,000 for this purpose;

12. To extend gratitude to the Secretary-General for his efforts to achieve Somali reconciliation and for the endeavours of the Secretariat-General in the same context; to welcome the opening of an office of the League of Arab States in the Somali capital; and to request the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to monitor implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Council of the League.

(Summit resolution 380, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Support for the Union of Comoros

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Affirming previous resolutions in this regard,

Resolves

1. To affirm its consummate desire for the national unity, territorial integrity and regional sovereignty of the Union of Comoros;

2. To appreciate the joint efforts of the League of Arab States, the African Union, the United Nations and neighbouring States, particularly in relation to the ongoing implementation of the national reconciliation pact signed at Moroni on 20 December 2003, to call upon the Secretariat-General and regional and international organizations and States concerned with the situation in the Union of Comoros to continue working toward overcoming any difficulties resulting from application of the country's new Constitution, and to provide

development assistance enabling the Union of Comoros to create balanced development among its islands;

3. To call upon the Comorian parties, particularly the presidents of the islands, to work to overcome their differences and reach solutions regarding the division of powers between the federal authorities and island authorities, within the framework of respect for the Constitution of the Union of Comoros; to work to prepare an atmosphere conducive to the holding of elections for the presidents of the islands in the middle of the year; and to call upon Member States and the Secretariat-General to provide the necessary financial and technical support and dispatch a sufficient number of observers to enable the elections to be held in an atmosphere of stability and transparency in the three Comoros islands;

4. To extend gratitude to those Member States which fulfilled their financial obligations to the Union of Comoros aid fund in implementation of resolution 230/C (Beirut, 28 March 2002) of the 14th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, and to call upon States which have not done so, to remit their contributions to the fund account promptly to enable the Secretariat-General to continue the implementation of economic development projects in the Union of Comoros;

5. To charge the Secretariat-General with drafting a proposal on the needs of the Union of Comoros and undertaking a feasibility study to determine the support to be provided, to be put before the next ordinary session of the Council of the League at ministerial level;

6. To call upon Member States to increase the financial support provided to the Union of Comoros and to request Arab finance and investment institutions, particularly the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to provide development funding to the Union of Comoros in all areas, particularly for the Walida National University in the Union of Comoros;

7. To call upon Member States to open diplomatic missions in the Union of Comoros, following the example of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and to call upon the Secretariat-General to open shortly an office of the League of Arab States in the Union of Comoros to support the League's role in continuing to achieve a political settlement and oversee implementation of Arab projects;

9. To request ALECSO to provide all possible assistance to support the teaching of Arabic in the Union of Comoros;

10. To express appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General in implementing development projects in the Union of Comoros and cooperating with regional and international organizations to achieve Comorian reconciliation and to request the Secretary-General to continue providing development aid to the Union of Comoros in the light of the sums received by the Arab League aid fund for the Union of Comoros and submit a report on this to the next session of the Council of the League at summit level.

(Summit resolution 381, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

The crystallization of a united Arab position on practical measures to be taken to make the Middle East a region free from nuclear weapons

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Recalling the statement (29 March 2006) of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level in the Republic of the Sudan on making the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction, principally nuclear weapons,

Taking note of resolution 6744 (4 March 2007) of the 127th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level on the dangers of Israeli nuclear weapons and other Israeli weapons of mass destruction to international peace and Arab national security, the directives contained in the resolution on Arab coordination in the proceedings of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its preparatory committees, and Arab coordination in the 51st General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Expressing grave concern at the public statements of the Israeli Prime Minister regarding Israel's possession of nuclear weapons,

Expressing alarm at the negative developments in the international arena generally and the Middle East in particular in the areas of arms control and disarmament and the lack of a practical response to the Arab initiative on making the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction, despite the adoption of numerous resolutions in this regard,

Resolves

1. To convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council of the League at ministerial level, to be preceded by a meeting of a committee of senior officials from the Arab States, to study and evaluate Arab efforts to make the Middle East a region free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. In particular, the Council of the League shall focus on:

   - Evaluating and reviewing the successes and failures of Arab policy over the past decades in the light of international developments and determining whether or not this policy is appropriate today in view of the current international situation and if the Arab States should continue to demand the creation of a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction;

   - Proposing a practical mechanism for making the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction and, in particular, for implementing the "Middle East Resolution" (1995) of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in preparation for putting it forward internationally;

   - Proposing suitable alternatives within the framework of which the Arab States might operate in the event that no appropriate steps are taken by the international community to implement the Arab initiative on making the Middle East a region free from such weapons and that no mechanism to implement international resolutions in this regard is adopted;

- Formulating an Arab approach on how to deal with the situation in the light of Israel's drift toward a break with its previous policy of nuclear ambiguity;

2. To affirm the commitment to the statement of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League at summit level on making the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction, principally nuclear weapons;

3. To suspend the activity of the technical committee responsible for preparing the draft treaty to make the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction, principally nuclear weapons, set up in 1994 as an Arab initiative, until the Arab policy of past decades has been reassessed and reviewed in the light of international developments and the current international situation;

4. To affirm the importance of full commitment to all elements of the Arab action and coordination plan and support for full implementation of resolution 6744 (4 March 2007) of the 127th ordinary session of the Ministerial Council of the League of Arab States on the dangers of Israeli nuclear weapons and other Israeli weapons of mass destruction for international peace and Arab national security, the directives contained in the resolution on Arab coordination in the proceedings of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its preparatory committees, and Arab coordination in the 51st General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

5. To request the Secretary-General to monitor the situation and submit a report containing specific proposals to the next session of the Council of the League.

(Summit resolution 382, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

The development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the Member States of the League of Arab States

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Recalling and affirming the commitment to the call by Arab leaders at the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level (Khartoum, 29 March 2006) concerning the development of peaceful uses nuclear energy in the Middle East,

Having studied the recommendation contained in resolution 6688 (6 September 2006) of the 126th ordinary session and resolution 6748 (4 March 2007) of the 127th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level,

Affirming that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is a fundamental right of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other relevant treaties and regulations including, in particular, the Statutes of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Recalling the accession of all Member States of the League of Arab States to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and their commitment to the provisions thereof, thereby affirming their entitlement to the international support necessary to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

Stressing the importance of using modern nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and working to develop this by joint Arab efforts,

Resolves,

1. To call upon the Arab States to commence and expand the use of peaceful nuclear technologies in all areas serving sustainable development, to take into consideration the different needs of the various Arab States, to abide by all international treaties, agreements and regulations to which these State are signatories and to take the following executive measures to achieve this:

   (a) To establish commissions and organizations responsible for the peaceful use of nuclear energy in each Arab State;

   (b) To establish independent, national supervisory commissions to monitor the use of nuclear energy in the State and the State's imports and exports of radioactive material and equipment in order to ensure nuclear safety in the State and greater transparency toward State institutions and the international community;

   (c) To teach nuclear science and technology in Arab universities to provide specialized knowledge in this vital field, and to request Ministers of Higher Education to take the steps to implement this;

   (d) To conduct the peaceful, applied research which is essential for making use of nuclear technology in economic, health and environmental activities, to ensure the necessary finance and to request that ministers responsible for scientific research take the steps to implement this;

   (e) To build nuclear reactors for purposes of scientific research and to extend their use to teaching, research and economic and health activities;

   (f) To develop and manage water resources by use of nuclear technology;

   (g) To promote Arab cooperation in producing the radioactive isotopes used in medicine;

   (h) To introduce the nuclear technologies used in medicine to Arab health institutions;

   (i) To create early warning networks for radioactive pollution and formulate national emergency plans to deal with radiation and nuclear accidents;

   (j) To support the Arab Atomic Energy Agency (AAEA) as an instrument of Joint Arab Action in this area and to call upon Arab States which have not completed the process of accession to membership of AAEA to do so as soon as possible, given its support for those States and Joint Arab Action;

2. To request AAEA to formulate an Arab strategy for the acquisition of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes up to 2020 and submit this to the next meeting of the Ministerial Council;

3. To charge the Secretariat-General to cooperate with AAEA in taking the necessary steps to implement this resolution, including convening the necessary meetings and committees;

4. To request the Secretary-General to monitor the situation and submit a report to the next session of the Council of the League at summit level and ministerial level.

(Summit resolution 383, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Formulation of a common Arab programme for the peaceful use of nuclear energy

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

The subject of peaceful uses of nuclear energy having been studied by Arab leaders,

Affirming the importance of joint Arab cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

Resolves

1. To establish joint Arab cooperation in developing peaceful uses of nuclear energy and related technology, to implement a practical programme covering joint projects to develop the use of such technology in the service of various areas of development in the Arab world, particularly energy, water, medicine, agriculture and industry;

2. To request the Secretary-General, with the participation of AAEA, to form a team of experts and specialists to study ways and means of establishing this cooperation through an integrated Arab programme;

3. To call upon the relevant Arab ministerial councils to examine this programme once it is complete and present their observations to the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level as a preliminary to submitting it to the next Arab Summit for consideration.

(Summit resolution 384, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Ways of combating international terrorism

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action and the memorandum of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (15 March 2007),

Resolves

1. To reaffirm its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of the motives and justifications, and to reject the confusion of terrorism with the noble religion of Islam which promotes the values of tolerance and repudiate terrorism and extremism;

2. To work to address the roots of terrorism and remove the factors which feed it by eliminating sources of tension and double standards in applying international legitimacy and putting and end to foreign occupation, injustice and violations of human rights and dignity;

3. To continue Arab coordination at the United Nations with regional States and blocs to convene a special session of the General Assembly or an international conference organized by the United Nations and to expedite a draft comprehensive United Nations agreement on terrorism which will include a precise, internationally agreed, definition of terrorism, taking into account that neither religious laws nor international charters condone the killing of innocent civilians, and which will distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to resist occupation and aggression;

4. To continue Arab efforts and endeavours to have the United Nations General Assembly issue a resolution on the formation of a working group to study ways of implementing the recommendations of the Riyadh Declaration issued by the International Conference on Counter-Terrorism (Riyadh, February 2005), and the proposal of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the creation of an international counter-terrorism centre to strengthen international cooperation in this important area;

5. To welcome the initiative of H.E. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the Republic of Tunisia calling for an international forum to be convened on counter-terrorism and the adoption of a code of conduct for combating this phenomenon to which all parties shall commit;

6. To support the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations and affirm the importance of the recommendations contained in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/288 (8 September 2006);

7. To strengthen the existing cooperation between the League of Arab States and international and regional counter-terrorism organizations, particularly the Counter-Terrorism Committee formed under Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

8. To activate the implementing mechanism for the Arab Anti-Terrorism Agreement and urge the concerned bodies in Arab States which have not sent their replies to the questionnaires monitoring implementation of the agreement to send these to the Arab Criminal Police Bureau prior to submission to the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice and Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior.

(Summit resolution 385, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Arab relations with international and regional blocs

Afro-Arab cooperation

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Affirming previous summit resolutions in this regard, particularly resolution 347 (Khartoum, 29 March 2006),

Resolves

1. To affirm the importance of continuing with efforts to remove obstacles to activating and developing Afro-Arab cooperation and organizing meetings of its agencies in the light of resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States and to request the Secretary-General to follow up contacts in this matter to arrive at a stage of real and beneficial joint cooperation, on the basis of interlinked political, economic, commercial and cultural interests, which will lay the foundations of sustained Afro-Arab relations and avert risks;

2. To continue the efforts between the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States and the African Union Commission to convene the 2nd Afro-Arab Summit Conference at the earliest possible opportunity and to remove the obstacles to fostering Afro-Arab cooperation;

3. To affirm the role of the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries in providing technical assistance to African States to foster Afro-Arab cooperation;

4. To call upon Member States to consider raising and expanding their diplomatic representation with the African States and strengthening coordination between the both groups of States in regional and international bodies;

5. To urge and encourage civil society organizations and businessmen's organizations in the Arab States to strengthen their presence in Africa and widen their circles of relationships with counterparts, particularly youth organizations, research centres, scientific agencies and federations of chambers of commerce, in order to maintain and strengthen popular diplomacy among the peoples and States of the two groups;

6. To intensify efforts between the Secretariat-General, the African Union Commission and ALECSO to do everything necessary to enable the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute to continue its work and implement its programmes, particularly in the light of joint efforts to develop and expand its mission to include an Afro-Arab strategic studies programme;

7. To continue efforts to develop and raise the performance of the Afro-Arab Trade Fair so that it might have a beneficial effect on trade and investment between the Arab and African States;

8. To charge the Secretariat-General to cooperate with the African Union Commission in continuing to study the creation of an Afro-Arab cooperation forum in which academics, experts, businessmen's organizations and civil society organizations will participate, to be held alternately by each side every two years;

9. To call upon Member States, relevant Joint Arab Action organizations and Arab charitable associations to provide urgent humanitarian aid to African regions facing the catastrophes of drought, desertification and flooding in the Republic of Niger, the Republic of Djibouti, the Republic of Somalia, the Republic of Kenya and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia ;

10. To call upon the Secretariat-General to expedite the opening of the Arab League mission in Pretoria, South Africa to support and strengthen the mechanism of Afro-Arab cooperation.

(Summit resolution 386, 19th ordinary session - 29 March 2007)

Arab-European cooperation

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Resolves

1. To request the Secretary-General to continue his efforts and liaison with the Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission to develop joint Arab-European relations, including the joint Arab-European dialogue, in accordance with the demands of higher Arab interests, and to intensify joint efforts to support the initiatives of several European States to strengthen relations between the States of the European Union and the Arab world, particularly the Maltese initiative to convene a Euro-Arab summit;

2. To affirm the importance of the Secretariat-General continuing its efforts, in cooperation with the European Commission, to develop and crystallize areas of joint cooperation in issues of concern to both sides and to institutionalize cooperation on the basis of existing contacts;

3. To affirm that the Secretariat-General shall continue its efforts and liaison to strengthen relations and intensify consultations with the new Accession States of the European Union and the Central Asian States to further cooperation with them in all areas, and to welcome the desire of many European States to sign memoranda of understanding with the League of Arab States;

4. To welcome the opening of the Arab House (*bayt al-'Arab*) in Madrid, to affirm the importance of the Council of Arab Ambassadors, in cooperation with the Secretariat-General, monitoring developments relating to the Euro-Arab Management School in Granada and to create an Arab-Spanish evaluation and liquidation committee to study the financial and legal position of the school and its remaining property and assets.

(Summit resolution 387, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Arab cooperation with the People's Republic of China

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action, the communiqué of the second ministerial meeting of the Sino-Arab Cooperation Forum, the Forum's action programme for 2006-2008 and the report of the Secretariat-General on the first Sino-Arab Friendship Conference,

Resolves

1. To affirm previous resolutions in this regard and express once more the desire of Member States to strengthen relations with the People's Republic of China in all areas;

2. To express appreciation to the Republic of the Sudan for hosting the first Sino-Arab Friendship Conference and to extend gratitude to the Sino-Arab

Friendship Society and the Secretariat-General for their contributions to the success of the conference;

3. To request that the Secretariat-General monitors coordination with the Chinese side in preparation for the meeting of senior officials of the Sino-Arab Cooperation Forum at the headquarters of the Secretariat-General in 2007 in preparation for the third ministerial meeting of the Forum in the Kingdom of Bahrain in 2008; and to request that the Secretariat-General continues to coordinate with the concerned bodies on the Arab and Chinese sides to prepare for the Forum's second Arab and Chinese Businessmen's Conference in Amman, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (18-19 June 2007);

4. To welcome the convening of the dialogue symposium between the Arab and Chinese civilizations in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in the course of 2007 and to charge the Secretariat-General with coordinating with the competent Arab and Chinese bodies to prepare for this symposium on the basis of the Sino-Arab Cooperation Forum action programme;

5. To extend gratitude to the Republic of Tunisia for hosting the 2009 dialogue symposium between the Arab and Chinese civilizations.

(Summit resolution 388, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Arab cooperation with the States of South America

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action, the declaration issued by the South American and Arab Countries Summit (the Brasilia Declaration), resolution 350 (Khartoum, 29 March 2006) of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, resolution 6694 (6 September 2006) of the 126th ordinary session of the Council of the League at ministerial level and resolution 6753 (4 March 2007) of the 127th ordinary session of the Council of the League at ministerial level,

Resolves,

1. To welcome the convening of the second South American and Arab Countries Summit in the Kingdom of Morocco at the beginning of 2008 and to charge the Secretariat-General to coordinate with Member States and the South American States in preparing the summit topics and documents;

2. To request that the Secretariat-General monitors coordination with the South American States in preparation for the joint ministerial meetings agreed at the third meeting of senior officials and which will include:

   - The second meeting of Ministers of Economic Affairs and related fields from the Arab and South American States in Rabat on 23-24 April 2007;
   - The first meeting of Arab and South American Ministers of Social Affairs in Cairo on 2-3 May 2007;
   - The next meeting of senior officials, in Bolivia, in July 2007;

- The meeting of Arab and South American Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in Argentina on 7 November 2007, to be preceded by a coordinating meeting on 6 November 2007;

3. To request the Secretariat-General to give a presentation on the issue to the next ordinary session of the Council.

(Summit resolution 389, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Support for the dialogue of civilizations

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action and the memorandum of the Republic of Tunisia (18 March 2007),

Resolves

1. To affirm the importance of establishing and fostering a genuine dialogue between civilizations within the framework of an Arab position calling for the need to adopt a culture of dialogue and alliance between civilizations and religions in order to establish international relations that are more balanced, mutually supportive and conducive to international peace and security;

2. To support the proposal of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States calling upon UNESCO to invite the Security Council to meet to discuss intercultural relations and their influence upon international peace and security;

3. To charge the specialized Arab ministerial councils (the Council of Arab Ministers of Information and Council of Arab Ministers of Telecommunications and Information Technology), the competent Arab organizations (ALECSO and the Arab States Broadcasting Union) and the overseas offices and missions of the League of Arab States to formulate action plans and programmes, employing modern technology and means of communication, designed to inform about Arab civilization and its significant enrichment of humanity on the one hand, and affirm the concepts of dialogue and openness in dealing with the other, on the other hand;

4. To call upon the Secretariat-General to monitor and follow up initiatives originating from individuals and regional and international organizations designed to support the dialogue of civilizations and secure the values of tolerance and openness, and to submit proposals for an appropriate response to these initiatives;

5. To call upon the Secretariat-General to coordinate its efforts in this area with the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

6. To call upon Arab States to provide the Secretariat-General and Member States with the results of their activity in fostering the dialogue of civilizations and informing about Arab civilization.

(Summit resolution 390, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Formulation of a model Arab plan for teaching the principles of human rights in 2009-2014

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action and memorandum 15 of the Republic of Tunisia (3 January 2007),

Resolves

1. To welcome the proposal of the Republic of Tunisia to formulate a model Arab plan for teaching the principles of human rights (2009-2014);

2. To charge the Secretariat-General with coordinating with Arab organizations and institutions concerned with human rights issues, chief among these being the Permanent Arab Commission on Human Rights, to draft the plan and define its principles, goals and mechanisms;

3. To request Member States to supply the Secretariat-General with their proposals in this regard;

4. To put the plan in its final form before the 20th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level for approval.

(Summit resolution 391, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Economic and social issues

Establishment of the Arab Customs Union

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General,

Recalling the directives of the Arab leaders contained in the Document of the Covenant, Accord and Solidarity (resolution 255 of the 16th ordinary session of the Council of the League – Tunis, 23 May 2004) for establishing the necessary structures and preparing the essential conditions for the consolidation of economic integration among the Arab States, and paragraph 6 thereof on finalization of the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone, the setting up of an Arab Customs Union to contribute to Arab economic integration and charging the Economic and Social Council with overcoming the obstacles to achieving this goal and developing a timetable for this purpose,

Recalling resolution 272 of the 16th ordinary session of the Council of the League (Tunis, 23 May 2004), charging the Economic and Social Council with prompt finalization of the concept and proposals for an Arab Customs Union for presentation to the 2005 Arab Summit,

Recalling resolution 351 of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League (Khartoum, 29 March 2006) charging the Economic and Social Council with presenting a comprehensive report on the establishment of an Arab Customs Union to the 2007 Arab Summit,

Valuing the efforts of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat-General in formulating the timetable for implementing phased Arab economic integration,

Resolves

1. To approve the general structure of the executive programme of the Arab Customs Union;

2. To charge the Economic and Social Council with formulating the mechanisms and preferred programmes for the application of this structure within a specific timeframe and to submit these to the next session of Council of the League of Arab States at summit level.

(Summit resolution 392, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

The strategy for sustainable Arab agricultural development

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General; resolution 314 (Algiers, 23 March 2005) of the 17th ordinary session of the Council of the League at summit level; resolution 2 of the 29th session of the General Assembly of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) (Cairo, 20-24 May 2006); resolutions 1646 (4 September 2006) and 1692 (15 February 2007) of the Economic and Social Council; and the draft strategy for sustainable Arab agricultural development for the next two decades,

Resolves

1. To approve the strategy for sustainable Arab agricultural development (independent document no. 05/(02/07)79/03C – D0002);

2. To consider the strategy for sustainable Arab agricultural development to be a part of the joint strategy for Arab economic and social action;

3. To call upon AOAD to commence implementation of the strategy for sustainable Arab agricultural development in collaboration with all relevant parties and to submit regular reports on the progress of implementation to the Economic and Social Council.

(Summit resolution 393, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

The development of education, higher education and scientific research in the Arab world

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General; the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action; the report of the Secretary-General on the development of education in the Arab world; the report of ALECSO on the development of education, higher education and scientific research in the Arab world and attached action plan; and the observations of Member States on the project for developing education in the Arab world,

Affirming that education represents the main pillar for bringing about an Arab renaissance in all fields, the cornerstone of sustainable growth and the key factor for social harmony and strengthening the security of the Arab States, both individually and collectively

Recalling previous resolutions, particularly 255 of the 16th ordinary session (Tunis, 23 May 2004), 289 of the 17th ordinary session (Algiers, 23 March 2005) and 354 and 355 of the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League (Khartoum, 29 March 2006),

Reaffirming its call to all concerned bodies in Member States of the need to monitor the progress of reform and modernization, at the forefront of which is the development of education,

Resolves

1. To commend the Secretary-General's report on the development of education in the Arab world and his efforts over the course of the year to prepare for implementation of the resolution of the Khartoum Summit, and to extend gratitude to the Secretary-General, the Secretariat-General, ALECSO and all who participated in preparing the report and action plan on the development of education;

2. To charge ALECSO, in coordination with the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States, with forwarding the report to the Governments of Member States for study; their comments should be sent to the Secretariat-General and ALECSO no later than the end of July and, in the light of this, a full report should be submitted to an extraordinary session of the General Conference of ALECSO and, subsequently, to the next session of the Economic and Social Council in September 2007, in preparation for submission to the next summit.

(Summit resolution 394, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

The Arab project to improve the quality of health facilities

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, resolution 17 of the 30th ordinary session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Health (15-16 March 2006) and resolution 3 of the 31st ordinary session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Health (27-28 February 2007),

Resolves

1. To welcome the putting into effect of the Arab project to improve the quality of health facilities in Arab countries, considering it to be a pioneering project designed to ensure the provision of high quality and reliable health-care services to create a healthy and fit Arab society;

2. To charge the Secretariat-General with submitting a report on the results of the application of this project to the next session of the Council of the League at summit level.

(Summit resolution 395, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Monitoring the application of the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Recalling Arab Summit resolutions 212 (2001), 233 (2002), 272 (2004), 308 (2005) and 351 (2006) relating to the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone,

Having studied the memorandum of the Economic and Social Council on monitoring aspects of the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone,

Valuing the results of the consultative ministerial meeting held on 15 February 2007 on the margins of the 79th session of the Economic and Social Council to address the issue of preferential rules of origin for Arab goods, and resolution 1687 (15 February 2007) of the 79th ordinary session,

Reaffirming the need to finalize the Zone by removing non-customs, administrative, technical, financial, monetary and qualitative restrictions and finalizing the preferential rules of origin for Arab goods on preferential bases,

Welcoming the steps taken by the Arab Republic of Egypt to lift its reservation to linking the application of exceptions to completion of the preferential rules of origin for Arab goods,

Resolves

1. To urge Member States which have not yet completed the measures for accession to the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone to do so promptly;

2. To urge Member States which have not yet ratified the Agreement To Facilitate and Develop Trade Among Arab States to do so and thereafter to complete the measures for accession to the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone in order to benefit from the facilities decided by the Arab Summit to facilitate the accession of less developed Arab States;

3. To charge the Economic and Social Council with intensifying its monitoring of the implementation of resolution 212 of the 13th ordinary session (Amman, 28 March 2001) on removal of non-customs restrictions which prevent Arab goods from taking advantage of the full exemption from customs duties and duties and taxes with similar effect, including the application for customs exemption;

4. To charge the Economic and Social Council with adopting the draft preferential rules of origin for Arab goods on preferential bases before the end of the current year;

5. To affirm the resolution of the extraordinary session of the Economic and Social Council in support of the Lebanese economy in confronting the destructive effects of Israeli aggression (Beirut, 16-17 October 2006).

(Summit resolution 396, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Liberalization of the trade in services between the Arab States

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the report of the 79th session of the Economic and Social Council (15 February 2007), particularly resolution 1686 thereof on liberalization of the trade in services between the Arab States,

Affirming its resolutions relating to strengthening the progress of Arab economic action, finalization of the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone and inclusion of the trade in services within its framework,

Expressing satisfaction at the commencement of bilateral negotiations between a number of Arab States aimed at liberalizing the trade in services and including it within the framework of the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone,

Welcoming the Jordanian and Egyptian initiative on full liberalization of a select number of sectors (telecommunications, computing, education),

Resolves

1. To call upon those Arab States who so wish to sign up to the Jordanian-Egyptian initiative to liberalize the telecommunications, computing and education sectors and to strive to extend the scope of liberalization to other service sectors;

2. To call upon Arab States taking part in the Beirut round of negotiations to conclude the bilateral negotiations on liberalization of the trade in services between the Arab States before the session of the Economic and Social Council in February 2008.

(Summit resolution 397, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Transport

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the report on follow-up to resolutions 212, 234, 275, 309 and 351 of the 13th, 14th, 16th, 17th and 18th sessions, respectively, on the completion of land, sea and air links between the Arab States, the development of the Arab transport sector and raising of efficiency,

Valuing the efforts of the Arab States, the Economic and Social Council, the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport and the Arab organizations concerned with the prompt implementation of the aforementioned resolutions,

Expressing satisfaction at the conclusion of the Convention on the Regulation of Transit Traffic among the Arab States,

Desiring to address the problems limiting the efficient movement of inter-Arab transport,

Taking into consideration the key role of Arab finance funds and institutions in giving effect to the directives of Joint Arab Action, particularly in relation to the completion of infrastructure,

Resolves

I. To call upon the Arab States

1. To ratify the Convention on the Regulation of Transit Traffic among the Arab States, in view of its role in facilitating the movement of persons between Arab States;

2. To take the necessary measures to bring the port fees and charges stipulated in their laws and regulations into line with those in the unified structure of Arab sea port fees and charges agreed by the Economic and Social Council and the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport (under resolutions 1473 and 214, respectively), and to introduce the single window system at points of entry to facilitate and raise the efficiency of Arab trade;

II. To call upon Arab funds and financial institutions to study the possibility of

1. Funding a comprehensive study on the completion of Arab land links by road and rail;

2. Granting special facilities to less developed Arab States to finance transport sector infrastructure projects enabling them to establish links with neighbouring States.

(Summit resolution 398, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

The Arab electricity grid

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the report on follow-up to resolutions 212, 236 and 311 of the 13th, 14th and 17th sessions, respectively, on the completion and enhancement of the Arab electricity grid and creation of an Arab energy market,

Giving its blessing to the directive of the council of Arab ministers responsible for electricity for a study on future Arab electricity interconnection projects in the light of existing projects and projects currently under implementation (the seven-nation interconnection project, the Maghreb interconnection project, the Gulf interconnection project), the availability of energy sources in the Arab States and expected demand for electricity and natural gas in the region,

Considering the pioneering role of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) in the field of the study and implementation of electricity sector projects in the Arab States and Arab electricity interconnection projects,

Resolves

1. To charge the council of Arab ministers responsible for electricity to expedite completion of a comprehensive study on future Arab electricity interconnection projects over the next 20 years in view of the importance of these to the creation of an integrated Arab energy market operated on economic bases;

2. To extend gratitude to AFESD for its previous financing of Arab electricity interconnection projects and to invite it to consider financing the above-mentioned comprehensive study.

(Summit resolution 399, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Arab tourism

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the report on follow-up to resolutions 237, 310 and 352 of the 14th, 17th and 18th sessions, respectively, on support for the Arab tourism sector and the fostering of inter-Arab tourism,

Affirming the importance of increasing the volume of inter-Arab tourism for economic considerations at broad Arab level,

Pursuant to the results of a review of some of the difficulties with a negative impact on facilitating and increasing the flow of tourism between the Arab States,

Resolves

To call upon the Arab States to consider passing laws and regulations to encourage inter-Arab tourism, including according national treatment to Arab tourists and facilitating the procedures for Arab tourists to obtain entry visas.

(Summit resolution 400, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Development of and support for the Palestinian economy and its rehabilitation

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Condemning Israeli aggression aimed at undermining the steadfastness of the Palestinian people,

Taking note of the scale of the human and material losses suffered by the Palestinian people due to the Israeli aggression to which all the Palestinian territories and the Gaza Strip in particular have been subjected,

Commending the support and assistance given to the Palestinian people by the Governments and peoples of the Arab States to withstand Israeli aggression and rebuild and reconstruct the autonomous capabilities of the Palestinian economy,

Appreciating the considerable efforts of Arab and Islamic financial and development institutions and funds, al-Aqsa Fund and al-Quds Fund in supporting and financing development projects in Palestine,

Resolves

1. To call upon the Arab States to support reconstruction of homes and infrastructure (roads, bridges, electricity, water) destroyed by Israeli aggression during military operations in the Gaza Strip and West Bank;

2. To call upon the Arab States to contribute effectively to the financing of development projects in Palestine through al-Aqsa Fund and al-Quds Fund, enabling these to bolster the efforts of the Palestinian Government to create development opportunities, lay the foundations of a favourable development environment and build a modern economy in accordance with Palestinian priorities, particularly the strengthening of the autonomous capabilities of the Palestinian economy, improvement of the investment environment and addressing the problems of unemployment and poverty;

3. To call upon all Arab and Islamic States which have not yet affiliated to the two funds to become members and to appeal to voluntary organizations in the Arab and Islamic world and other donors to make use of the technical capacity and contracting and exchange mechanisms put in place by the Islamic Development Bank to fund development programmes and projects which bear witness to the Bank's desire to respond to the urgent priorities of the Palestinian people and act in accordance with the best standards and practices of transparency, rationalization and integrity;

4. To call upon all Arab States which have not implemented resolution 200 (Cairo, 22 October 2000) of the extraordinary Arab Summit on the exemption of Palestinian goods from customs duties and duties and taxes with similar effect, to expedite implementation of the resolution and issue the appropriate directives to customs posts;

5. To call upon Arab and Islamic institutions and funds to continue to provide financial support for development projects in Palestine and to provide all forms of technical support for Palestinian institutions, particularly in the areas of expertise, the development of autonomous capabilities and institution-building in the public and private sectors;

6. To call upon private sector enterprises in the Arab world and Arab businessmen to take an active role in investing in Palestine, encourage joint investment projects, provide all possible support and assistance to Palestinian private sector enterprises and businessmen, and to call for effective contributions to the success of the economic forum to be organized by the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States in support of Palestinian economic reconstruction.

(Summit resolution 401, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Financial and administrative issues

The financial position of the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Pursuant to all resolutions concerning the financial position, of which the last was resolution 359 (Khartoum, 29 March 2006),

Resolves

1. To affirm the need for Member States which have not fulfilled their commitments to implement the resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level concerning:

   - The need for Member States to commit to paying their contributions in full during the first three months of the financial year in accordance with article 29 of the financial regulation and in the currency of the budget;

   - The requirement for Member States in arrears to pay 10% of their arrears annually, in addition to their annual share;

- The request that Member States which have stipulated reservations to a proportion of their current contributions to the budget of the Secretariat-General withdraw these reservations;
- The payment by Member States of their contributions to the general reserve of the Secretariat-General with effect from the 2006 budget, in accordance with articles 23 and 24 of the financial regulation of the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States;

2. To address the situation of States which are unable to pay their stipulated contributions to the budget of the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States and to request these States to pay their shares of the 2006 and 2007 budgets.

(Summit resolution 402, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

Expression of gratitude and appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the 19th ordinary session at summit level in Riyadh

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

In appreciation of the generous hosting by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the proceedings of the 19th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level and its estimable efforts in preparing and organizing the proceedings of this session,

Resolves

1. To extend sincere gratitude and thanks to the King, Government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the warm reception and generous hospitality extended to the delegations participating in the Arab Summit;

2. To express deep gratitude and recognition to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for his great effort in providing the opportunities for convening the conference and the success of its proceedings.

(Summit resolution 403, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

The venue and date of the 20th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Pursuant to the annex to the Charter on the mechanism for regular convening of the ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Resolves

To convene the 20th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level under the presidency of the Syrian Arab Republic in Damascus, in March 2008.

(Summit resolution 404, 19th ordinary session – 29 March 2007)

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level
19th Ordinary Session
Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
28-29 March 2007

The Riyadh Declaration

We, the leaders of the Arab States assembling at the 19th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level in Riyadh, capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the 28th and 29th days of March 2007,

Pursuant to the principles and intentions of the Charter of the League of Arab States and other Arab charters, including the Document of the Covenant, Accord and Solidarity and the Document of Development and Modernization in the Arab World,

Drawing inspiration from religious and Arab values which reject all forms of extremism, fanaticism and racism, and desiring to strengthen the Arab identity, entrench its civilizational and cultural foundations and maintain its human mission of openness in the light of the challenges and dangers facing the Arab nation which threaten to redraw the situation in the region, dissolve the Arab identity and break the bonds which bind us,

Affirming the pressing need to recover the spirit of Arab solidarity, protect joint Arab security, promote Arab economic, social and development action, commit diligently and sincerely to Joint Arab Action and fulfil the demands of support for the League of Arab States and its institutions,

Declaring our determination to strive diligently to protect the Arab identity, bolster its foundations and secure allegiance to it in the hearts and minds of children, teenagers and young men and women, given that Arabism is not a racial or ethnic concept but rather a common cultural identity, with the Arabic language as its means of expression and of preserving its heritage, and a shared civilizational framework based upon spiritual, ethical and human values, enriched by diversity, plurality, openness to other human cultures and keeping pace with rapid scientific and technical developments, without dissolution, fragmentation or loss of distinctiveness,

We therefore resolve:

- To give the utmost priority to the development of education and educational curricula in the Arab world to deepen shared Arab allegiance, respond to the needs of development, modernization and sustainable growth, entrench the values of dialogue and inventiveness and secure the principles of human rights and the active and positive participation of women;

- To develop joint Arab action in the fields of education, culture and science by bolstering existing institutions, according them the importance they deserve and the human and financial resources they need, particularly in relation to the development of scientific research, the joint production of books, programmes and materials for children and teenagers, the launching of an extensive translation enterprise from and into Arabic and the

promotion of Arabic in all fields, including telecommunications, information technology, the media, the Internet, science and technology;

- To spread the culture of moderation, tolerance, dialogue and openness, reject all forms of terrorism, fanaticism and extremism, all exclusionary racist trends, campaigns of hatred and defamation and attempts to cast doubt on our human values or violate our religious beliefs and what we hold sacred, and to warn against employing doctrinal and sectarian plurality for political purposes aimed at partitioning the Arab nation, dividing its States and peoples and igniting destructive civil discord and strife;

- To secure effective Arab solidarity in order to contain crises and settle disputes between Member States by peaceful means, within the framework of a proactive Arab Peace and Security Council as resolved at previous Arab summits, to develop dialogue with the neighbouring States of the region on the basis of unified and defined Arab positions, to revitalize the institutions of joint Arab security protection and affirm its terms of reference as stipulated in Arab charters, and to endeavour to meet Arab defence and security needs;

- To affirm the option of a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic choice for the Arab nation and to affirm the Arab Peace Initiative which charts the proper course for reaching a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute on the basis of the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace;

- To affirm the importance of the region being free of all weapons of mass destruction, without double standards and selectivity, warning against starting a dangerous and destructive nuclear armaments race in the region, and affirming the right of all States to acquire peaceful nuclear energy in accordance with international authorities and the inspection and control regime based thereon.

The dangerous situation which has overtaken our region, with Arab land seen as fair game for pillage, Arab energies and resources squandered and Arab identity, allegiance and culture declining, requires us all to engage in an honest and thorough self-examination. All of us – leaders, officials and citizens, fathers, mothers and children – are partners in designing our own destiny and preserving our identity, culture, values and rights. The grave crises they pass through only increase the faith and resolve of great and vigorous nations. When it closes ranks and strengthens its joint action, the Arab nation is capable of achieving the security, dignity, well-being and prosperity it deserves.

Riyadh, 29 March 2007

Address of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to the opening session

In the Name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate,

Prayers and peace upon our Prophet, Muhammad,

Your Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses, the Leaders of the Arab nation,
Brothers,

May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

In my name and that of the Saudi people, it is a pleasure to welcome you and wish you success in your deliberations. I thank His Excellency Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan for his efforts during his presidency of the summit last year.

Dear Brothers,

The Arab League was established over 60 years ago as a nucleus for genuine Arab unity – united armies, united economies, united political goals and, above all, united hearts and minds.

There is no doubt that the question which poses itself to us is: What has been achieved from all this? The answer is revealed by our current situation which confirms that we are as far away from unity today as we were on the day the League was established.

Dear Brothers.

In wounded Palestine, a resolute people are still suffering subjugation and occupation, deprived of their right to an independent State. As you all know, our Palestinian brothers gathered in Mecca, in the vicinity of the Holy Mosque and, by the grace of God, successfully put an end to their differences and agreed upon the declaration of a Government of National Unity. In the light of this positive development, it became essential to put an end to the iniquitous blockade imposed on the Palestinian people as soon as possible to enable the peace process to get underway in an atmosphere free from repression and coercion, allowing it to successfully achieve its goal of the establishment of an independent Palestinian State.

In beloved Iraq, blood is being shed between brothers in the shadow of an unlawful foreign occupation and odious sectarianism which threatens civil war. In Lebanon, once a model of coexistence and prosperity, the Arab nation stands paralysed as its streets turn into hotels and civil strife is about to bear its teeth.

In the Sudan, Arab lethargy has led to foreign intervention in its affairs. In Somalia, hardly does one civil war end before another begins. All of this goes on and we are unable to aid our brothers.

The question is: What have we been doing throughout these years to solve all this? I do not want to cast blame on the Arab League. The League is a body which reflects our situation just as it sees it. The real blame lies with us, the leaders of the

Arab nation. Our endless disagreements and refusal to unite has made the Arab nation lose its confidence in our credibility and lose hope in its present and future.

Dear brothers,

Disunity is not our fate and backwardness is not our inevitable destiny. Almighty God has bestowed dignity upon us and favoured us with intelligence to distinguish between truth and falsehood and conscience to know good from evil. All we need to do is purge our minds of fear and apprehension so that a man feels for his brother man only love and friendship and wishes for him only the good he desires for himself.

Despite reasons for despair, I have hope. Despite reasons for pessimism, I hold fast to optimism. Despite difficulty, I aspire to ease.

The first step on the path to deliverance is that we restore confidence in ourselves and in each other. If confidence is restored, credibility will be restored along with it and if credibility is restored, the winds of hope will blow across the nation. At that time, we shall not allow powers from outside the region to chart the region's future and only the flag of Arabism shall fly on Arab land.

The Holy Koran states: *God shall not change a people's condition until they change what is in themselves*. I call upon you, beginning with myself, to a new beginning where our hearts are united and our ranks are closed. I invite you to embark upon a path which shall only end when the Arab nation has realised its hopes of unity, honour and prosperity. And what is that for the power of the Almighty and the resolve of faithful men?

May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

Address of Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to the opening session

President of the Summit, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud,

Your Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses,

The convening of the 19th Arab Summit in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, sends a clear message which is that the regular, annual convening of the Arab Summit has become an established mechanism for the management of Joint Arab Action since its adoption in Cairo in 2000. It has also been imposed by the urgent need for coordination and solidarity in the face of the enormous challenges facing the Arabs at a time of unprecedented tension in the modern history of the Middle East and Arab world.

I would like to congratulate the Kingdom and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques on assuming the Presidency of the Summit. With his wisdom, strength of character and unwavering stances he is, as we have known all along, capable of vigilant leadership on the path ahead, of awakening determination and of sharpening resolve in the face of the clear challenge to the nature and, indeed, the very existence of the Arab nation.

I express appreciation to His Excellency Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir for his outstanding efforts and vigorous management since assuming the Presidency of the Arab Summit in the last Arab political year. Under his leadership, Sudanese diplomacy faithfully assumed responsibility for monitoring implementation of the resolutions of that summit amidst difficult circumstances in which dangers and challenges multiplied for the Sudan itself, the adjacent region of the Horn of Africa and throughout the Middle East.

President of the Summit, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Your Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses,

At the start of the new Presidency, allow me to present you with a statement of account on Joint Arab Action in the year between the Khartoum Summit of last May and now.

As you know, the Arab agenda is based on four key items:

- The strategic, political and security situation in the region and the major problems associated with this, at the forefront of which are Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, the tragedy of Iraq, the divisions within Lebanon, the problems of the Sudan, the difficulties in Somalia, the nuclear situation in the region and the violent onslaught against the Arab nature and identity;
- The development situation and Joint Arab Action in its economic and social frameworks;
- The reform movement in Arab societies;
- Reform of the structures of the Arab League and the strengthening of its mechanisms.

In my report, I will deal with each of these items with a concision which will not, I trust, be unseemly. However, details may be found in my report which you have before you.

As regards the strategic and political situation in the region, the Arab world, the surrounding Islamic world and, in fact, most of the world sees in the continuation of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its essence, the Palestinian issue, the core of the problem and the source of tension in the entire region. A pertinent question might be asked here: What must we do in the face of shockingly biased international policies which influence Israel's extremist policy of thwarting the chances for a just peace? This bias has caused the paralysis of the peace process. It is a situation which makes us work determinedly for and to demand reconsideration of this policy, if there is to be a stable peace in the Middle East. The absence of honest mediation has done great damage to the chances of bringing about a qualitative transformation in the regional situation. Nonetheless, we are currently pursuing diplomatic activity which will, we hope, lead to the peace process being restarted. We hope it will be successful, particularly because we are in decisive race against time, given the continuation of Israeli practices to change the geographic and demographic situation in the occupied Arab territories.

We hope that it will not be simply wasted activity with vicious circles emerging once again, and we find ourselves after a while in the same situation and all we have done is to give Israeli policy the time it needs to impose a new fait accompli in the occupied territories to use in argument against us, whether with regard to Jerusalem, its environs or the occupied territories in general.

Vigilance is required now more than at any time in the past, followed by a necessary process of assessment over the coming weeks and months to enable us to discuss the path that must be taken, if the present efforts fail or are clearly ineffective, which is a very real possibility.

The Arabs have prepared themselves to enter into a peace process to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, as developments in recent weeks have borne witness. At the forefront of Arab achievements is the Mecca Agreement, held under the generous sponsorship of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, to offset a dangerous situation facing the region. Related to this is the Palestinian agreement to establish a Government of National Unity which we salute and wish every success in furthering Palestinian action toward achieving a just peace within the framework of the Arab Peace Initiative. Here, I salute the European nations which have taken the proper and bold decision to recognise and deal with the new Palestinian Government. Foremost among these is Norway, represented here today by its Minister of Foreign Affairs. I demand an end to the unjust economic blockade imposed upon the Palestinian people which only serves the goals of the foreign occupation.

The Arab goal is clearly demonstrated by the Arab Peace Initiative to which all Arabs are committed and which forms the framework of their acceptance and the necessary conditions for comprehensive peace, including the demand for an end to the military occupation of the Palestinian territories, the Syrian Golan and Lebanese Shebaa Farms and the establishment of future relations with Israel under conditions of comprehensive peace and a viable Palestinian State.

If Israeli policy wants the Arabs to amend their initiative into something which, in the end, consists of Arab concessions for nothing in return and to cede

rights to Israel without corresponding obligations – following the racist proposal for the exclusion of land and people and the focus on the demand for normalization – it will not only cancel the initiative but also prevent peace.

It may be correct to assert that Israeli public opinion's ignorance of the Arab Peace Initiative is exploited by Israeli politicians and that we must exert additional efforts to inform and convince both them and their allies. King Abdullah II of Jordan explained this clearly and plainly in his wide-ranging address to the U.S. Congress. But the negative Israeli response is: Amend it first. We say to them: If you accept it first and come to the negotiating table, perhaps we can arrive at a just solution acceptable to all, consistent with international law, the resolutions of the Security Council and the principle of land for peace.

We are at a crossroads. We either move toward a genuine and acceptable peace, for which we are ready or continue in a situation – indeed, a worsening situation – of maximum tension, for which many are prepared.

Moving on to Iraq, the tragedy is enormous. However, the Arab position has been clear from the first moments of the collapse of the previous regime: to assist the new Iraq to overcome the great crisis that was clearly on the point of occurring upon the outbreak of war in March 2003. Despite the considerable doubts surrounding the true aims of that war, the Arab order agreed that the Transitional Governing Council set up at that time would occupy Iraq's seat at the League of Arab States, as an act of acceptance of Iraq and safeguarding of its nature and future. The new situation was thus accorded legitimacy, albeit controversial. The Arab order then proposed the path of national reconciliation as a way of escape from the crushing crisis in the country. This promised progress at the time had it not been for negative forces which strove to destroy all the opportunities for reconciliation to keep Iraq suffering from sectarianism and confessionalism and, in consequence, suffering the bloody manifestations of national division.

The path to a solution in Iraq may be embarked on if all influential and relevant forces acknowledge that the situation requires not only security measures but a political solution. The point is not the number of soldiers but the objective nature and usefulness of the rapprochement.

The division and clash between Shi'ah and Sunna in Iraq and policies seeking to ignite or exploit these, unaware of their tragic dimensions, could ignite a terrible regional conflagration from which no-one in Iraq, in the region or overseas will emerge victorious.

This is the basis for the Arab strategic resolution that the salvation of Iraq is, in the first place, an Iraqi national responsibility. We shall follow with concern the policy which emerges to bring together the various Iraqi political forces, without exception. While the salvation of Iraq is an Iraqi national responsibility, it is also, at the same time, the responsibility of the Arabs and the neighbouring States to help it to cross over to the shores of peace and an international responsibility to cooperate to achieve that.

While we in the Arab world understand that others have interests in Iraq, it must be understood by those others that the Arabs have enormous interests in and with Iraq, and that the solution rests in reaching a common understanding to protect the future of a single, free Iraq, launching it forward toward wider horizons on a

foundation of genuine democracy and free from sectarianism and confessionalism, in the light of a constitution on which all are agreed and which is safeguarded by all.

In this respect, the position of the League of Arab States is clear from its resolutions, the last of which was the one put before this Summit by the Council of Ministers on the criteria which a solution to the situation requires. Moreover, the League of Arab States is ready to restart the inclusive reconciliation conference held under its auspices in November 2005, on the basis of the two fundamental documents agreed upon by all Iraqi factions in Cairo in 2005 and, subsequently, 2006, when the last meeting of the committee representing all tendencies was held at the Arab League to resume consideration of restarting the reconciliation process. The two documents contain the key points on which the Iraqi political, religious, governmental and opposition players are agreed and is considered an important basis for the process of Iraqi reconciliation. These documents are official and historic documents of the League of Arab States and, as the starting point for agreement between the various Iraqi groups, regardless of ethnicity, sect or religion, will form the basis for the continuation of Arab political action.

In addition, action from now on shall require joint effort within the framework of the Arab League in cooperation with the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the neighbouring States and all other concerned international bodies. Re-launching the process of Iraqi national accord has become a pressing need and we shall work to implement it in accordance with the resolutions you adopt.

As regards Lebanon, so dear to us all, the situation remains hostage to agreement between its political leaders and the balance between their demands and entitlements. We shall certainly continue our Arab efforts to achieve this on the basis of a basket of proposals put forward by the Arab League, together with their possible development and the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the concerned Arab States. These involve the setting up of a court to uncover the truth about the terrible crime which took the life of Rafiq al-Hariri and his companions, which is a just demand, and the establishment of a Government of National Unity to steer the country through the storms currently battering it, which is a national demand, in addition to preparing for the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections.

Moving on to the Sudan and to Darfur in particular, the situation is tied to the following:

1. The speedy launch of the political process and widening of the basis of the Abuja Peace Agreement on Darfur to include non-signatories;

2. Cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and the Sudanese Government in relation to the deployment of the peacekeeping forces in accordance with the agreement reached in Addis Ababa;

3. The importance of linking the developmental dimension with the political aspect in addressing the issue of Darfur, convene a dialogue conference between the people of Darfur, bolster the development and compensation funds and incorporate Darfurians into the institutions of the Federal Government;

4. Avoidance of the increasing tendency to adopt sanctions and coercion as a means of imposing solutions, as these lead to the incitement of the parties

against one another and a complicating of the situation. Mutual understanding between the parties to the conflict is an important basis for arriving at permanent and stable solutions. I am very pleased to see that the new Secretary-General of the United Nations, to whom I wish every success in his important task, understands the difficulties of the Darfur issue and the importance of the three main parties – the United Nations, the African Union and the Sudanese Government – reaching an understanding;

5. Enabling the humanitarian organizations to perform their important and necessary work and the importance of these organizations focusing upon their enormous task and not involving themselves in the political situation.

The Arab League has not been unaware of the need to contribute to an improvement of the humanitarian situation in Darfur and has sent a number of medical and food missions. During my visit to Darfur, I noticed an Arab humanitarian presence in the displaced persons' camps but this still needs to be increased and given more support, particularly by Arab civil society, in order for it to play a greater role in alleviating the human suffering of the people of Darfur.

Before I conclude the subject of the Sudan, I find myself duty bound to note that the strenuous appeals have been made to the Arab States and Arab finance and investment funds to contribute to the development of Southern Sudan. In this connection, the Arab League has opened an office at Juba, in Southern Sudan, to assist with the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on 9 January 2005 and to coordinate Arab development aid for Southern Sudan.

The Arab States' preoccupation with external challenges and pressures and the increasing number of regional issues does not mean they should leave the issue of the unity of the Sudan to its own fate without an active Arab role backed up by development and investment projects, making Sudanese unity an attractive option for the people of Southern Sudan.

Last but not least, the situation in Somalia continues to be a cause of great anxiety. Under the Sudanese Presidency, the Arab League exerted the utmost efforts to encourage the Somali parties to reach peaceful solutions and Khartoum witnessed a number of rounds of Somali talks under the auspices of the Arab League. However, events moved in a different direction and the matter today requires combined international, regional and Somali efforts to address the situation on the following bases:

1. The bolstering of Somali legitimacy and support for the regime headed by President Abdullahi Yusuf;

2. Support for the African Union resolution to dispatch peacekeeping troops in support of legitimacy, the movement toward normalization of life there and the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces and affirmation of respect for the sovereignty of Somalia over its own territory;

3. The importance of dialogue and reconciliation between the political forces in Somalia and support for the Government in steering matters toward this important stage in the process of establishing the new Somalia;

4. In preparation for the above and to help bring it about, to call for a conference on the reconstruction of Somalia, in respect of which I am confident that the Arab States shall not be absent or their investments, hesitant.

On this occasion, I welcome President Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya and Chairman of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and Prof. Alpha Oumar Konaré, President of the African Union Commission. I affirm the joint desire of the Arab and African sides to draw up the necessary recommendations to foster Afro-Arab cooperation and remove the obstacles to progress on new bases and with a comprehensive vision of the different areas of cooperation to be sanctioned at the earliest opportunity and the highest political level between the two close and interacting parties, the Arab and African.

While addressing political issues, I draw attention to the efforts of the United Arab Emirates to recover sovereignty over its three occupied islands and find a peaceful solution to that dispute in accordance with the principles and tenets of international law.

At the end of my report on the security and political situation, I would like to draw attention to two issues. The first of these is the nuclear issue in the Middle East. The view of the Arab League remains as established by the summit, summit resolutions and the resolutions of official councils, on the basis of:

- Opposition to the existence of any military nuclear programmes in any regional State, without exception;
- Rejection of the proposition which accepts the possibility of the existence of one acknowledged or unspoken military nuclear programme but refuses to accept another, demanding its condemnation and the imposition of sanctions;
- The right of all States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to acquire nuclear technology, the right to nuclear know-how, the right to right nuclear science and to cooperate toward the acquisition thereof;
- The need to make the entire Middle East a nuclear weapons-free zone – and without exception, otherwise there is no rationale for such a zone;
- Dialogue and negotiations are the way to address these issues, as has happened and is happening in other regions, without coercive measures which do not necessarily serve goals consistent with the requirements of regional security.

In the context of the strategic and security theme in the region, attention must also be drawn to the outrageous campaign against the distinctive cultural identity of the Arab nation, relying on the hostile assertion of the inevitability of a clash of cultures to sow the seeds of doubt concerning everything Arab or Muslim. It has become a regional and international political and security problem, threatening the security of the region and world stability, instead of being an open area for dialogue and free and constructive interaction with the other.

In the light of all these challenges which pose a serious threat to the security of the region, you resolved at the Khartoum Summit to establish the Arab Peace and Security Council, within the framework of the League of Arab States, with the task of monitoring these and other issues and their security implications. The Council, which is ready to become operative after securing the stipulated number of ratifications by Arab States, will give peacekeeping operations in the Arab world their proper status and role. The Council will also be responsible for the

management of dispute resolution between Arab States, in addition to being in permanent session and having competence to coordinate with the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, thereby shifting the organization onto another level in respect of prompt action to prevent the deterioration of problems and outbreak of war.

President of the Summit, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Your Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses,

As for the development theme, I am pleased to draw attention to the positive movement with regard to the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone and to the fact that there has been a not inconsiderable jump in the flow of trade between the Arab States.

I am also pleased to note progress in the negotiations on liberalization of the trade in services between a number of Arab countries, in addition to the substantial activity, led by the Secretariat-General, to address issues of the Arab services sectors, particularly those relating to transport, tourism, electricity interconnection, sustainable development and industrial and agricultural development. In this regard, the Arab agricultural development strategy has been put before the Summit.

In the detailed report presented to you, you will find detailed measures relating to Arab cooperation in the areas of the environment, sustainable development, housing, urban planning, meteorology and energy. In fact, activity extends to other economic sectors, such as computing, databases, telecommunications and information technology.

In this respect, Arab economic and social cooperation received a substantial boost from the Egyptian-Kuwaiti initiative put before this Summit proposing that a special Arab Summit be held on economic, development and social issues to formulate practical programmes and mechanisms to foster and strengthen Arab development strategies which will have fast and direct benefits for Arab citizens and foster economic integration between the Arab States. Welcoming this initiative, I suggest that the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States be charged with preparing for this summit.

In another respect, I am extremely pleased to inform the Arab leaders that your resolution at the Khartoum Summit on the modernization of education has been implemented. This topic has been of personal interest to me and I am honoured to submit to this session a detailed report representing the sum of the untiring activity carried out over the past year, with the participation of specialized Arab and international organizations, such as ALECSO, the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), UNESCO and UNICEF, in addition to the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States which organized a number of intellectual gatherings of experts in different specializations related to education. Arab and international reports which evaluated the situation of education in the Arab States were reviewed.

The report raises a significant number of recommendations aimed at modernizing the education system in the Arab world and creating several institutions, at the forefront of which are the Arab Quality Assurance and Accreditation Network in Education and the Arab Observatory for the Development of the Arab System of Education. The report also includes analytical studies and recommendations on the development and modernization of the different levels of education.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In addition to the initiative on the modernization of education, work is well underway to implementing the substance of the reform documents adopted at the Tunis and Algiers Summits. We commend and welcome the significant step taken by Mauritania to bring about and consolidate the democratic process and we are following with interest the current political, economic and social reform activity in the Arab world, at the forefront of which are laws to empower women and enable the development of civil society.

In the area of reform, I would like to note that the benefits from the steps taken by the Arab States on the path of reform will multiply and be increasingly noticed by the Arab citizen, when combined with the doubling of efforts to fight corruption in all its forms. We anticipate that anti-corruption indicators in the Arab States, monitored by a number of international organizations and institutions, will rise to the level of States which have successfully combated this phenomenon which has a negative impact on development.

There is still much that people are expecting and, indeed, deserve in the area of modernization and development. Hopes are tied to an on-going and bold process. We are in the 21st century, a century with its own features and aspirations and the Arabs shall not remain outside history if we develop and evolve. Development is what the overwhelming majority of Arab citizens are calling for, as reflected in the historic documents adopted by the Tunis Summit (May 2004).

Last but not least, I come to the reform of the structures of the Arab League. A comprehensive reform process was launched which included the creation of new institutions. At the forefront of these is the Interim Arab Parliament whose first anniversary we celebrated last December and which is becoming the legislative arm of the institutions of Joint Arab Action. In addition, there is the Arab Peace and Security Council, the empowerment of the Economic and Social Council and bolstering of its powers of oversight of all joint Arab development activities, and the opening-up of doors to the participation of civil society. The Secretariat-General has been modernized, its working methods developed, its level of performance enhanced and a number of important, new areas have been highlighted in the Arab League agenda, such as issues relating to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the dialogue of civilizations, the Arabs of the Diaspora, sustainable development, climate change, the greenhouse effect and its impact on the environment and natural resources in the Arab world.

A framework has been set up and strengthened for regulating joint Arab cooperative relations with various influential blocs, entities and States, including the African Union, IGAD, the Latin American States, the European Union, China, Russia, India, Japan, Turkey and other active international and regional players.

In conclusion, I would like to welcome the guests who are joining us today at the opening of the Summit proceedings. In particular, I would like to mention the President of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, the President of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mr. Abdullah Badawi, the Prime Minister of Turkey, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the Vice-President of Indonesia, Mr. Jusuf Kalla, in addition to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, President of the African Union Commission, Prof. Alpha Oumar Konaré, the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Dr. Ekmeleddin

Ihsanoglu, the European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Mr. Javier Solana, the President of the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly, Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Iran and Norway and the representatives of Russia, Spain, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Portugal, Slovenia and Cuba.

I wish the conference every success and may the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

Communiqué of the meeting of regional and international organizations on the peace process in Darfur

Pursuant to the generous invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, a meeting on the issue of Darfur was held on the margins of the Riyadh Summit on 28 March 2007. The meeting brought together His Excellency Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Prof. Alpha Oumar Konaré, President of the African Union Commission and Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Dr. Lam Akol, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan also took part in the meeting.

The meeting discussed all aspects of developments in the Darfur issue. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques urged the different parties to expedite implementation of the Abuja Peace Agreement on Darfur and the understandings reached between the United Nations, African Union and Sudanese Government in Addis Ababa and Abuja. He affirmed the need to intensify cooperation between the United Nations, African Union and League of Arab States to reach a comprehensive and speedy settlement of the conflict and end the human suffering in Darfur.

In the light of the presentation given by the Sudanese President and the contributions of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the meeting reached agreement on a number of practical measures to surmount the obstacles preventing prompt implementation of the Abuja Peace Agreement and the understandings reached subsequently in Addis Ababa and Abuja. These measures included working to bring the movements which have not signed the Abuja Peace Agreement into the peace process in order to speed up efforts toward national reconciliation. They also included calling upon the three-member committee consisting of the United Nations, African Union and Sudanese Government to meet urgently at expert level to reach agreement on the heavy support package, expedite agreement on appointing the joint representative to the United Nations and African Union to supervise implementation of the peace agreement in Darfur, and end the limitation on the size and weaponry of the African forces, as well as dealing with logistic and technical support, monitoring, financing and ways of United Nations involvement in support of the third phase of this process, in accordance with the understandings between the United Nations, African Union and Sudanese Government.

Participants welcomed the agreement signed in the Sudan on 28 March 2007 between the Sudanese Government and United Nations on facilitating the access of humanitarian aid to civilians in Darfur and the work of humanitarian organizations.

Riyadh, 28 March 2007

Communiqué of the meeting of regional and international organizations on Somalia

His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al Faisal convened a meeting on the margins of the Summit, attended by Their Excellencies the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the President of the African Union Commission, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, to discuss a joint way forward on the issue of Somalia.

Following a thorough discussion of the issues involved, the group came to the following consensus:

- The situation in Somalia is becoming increasingly urgent. While resolution is primarily the responsibility of the Somalis themselves, the international community must monitor developments closely to study the assistance required to achieve this goal;
- The rapid expansion of the forces of the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) is vital to provide security and allow an early withdrawal of the Ethiopian forces. It is important to ensure that there is no gap between the departure of the Ethiopian forces and the deployment of AMISOM forces;
- National reconciliation is the key to resolving the crisis and it must be inclusive to succeed. Accordingly, a National Reconciliation Conference must be well prepared for and include all relevant Somali groups;
- Security, proper conference preparations and inclusive representation remain important requirements for achieving progress in the reconciliation process. The effort which will commence on 16 April 27 must be the start of a process to achieve these goals;
- The 3 April meeting at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo of the Contact Group plus OIC is an opportunity to start the discussion on these issues. It should formulate a clear strategy for promoting an inclusive reconciliation process which includes a clear timetable for moving the process forward quickly;
- Achieving progress in Somalia will allow the Security Council to take prompt measures to establish a peacekeeping force to replace AMISOM on the basis of a precisely worded mandate to avoid past mistakes in Somalia and to start training a national security force to bear responsibility for security;
- A solution to the Somali crisis will require a sustained effort on the part of the Somalis and the international community. If agreement is reached, members of the group taking part in this meeting may contribute the necessary funds and call upon the international community to contribute also.

Riyadh, 28 March 2007

List of names of heads of Arab delegations participating in the 19th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level

(listed alphabetically by Member State)

- His Excellency Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- His Excellency Ahmed Abdullah Mohamed Sambi, President of the Union of Comoros
- His Excellency Ismail Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti
- His Excellency Mohammed Husni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- His Excellency Jalal Talabani, President of the Republic of Iraq
- His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait
- His Excellency General Emile Lahoud, President of the Lebanese Republic
- His Excellency Col. Ely Ould Mohamed Vall, President of the Military Council for Justice and Democracy, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid of the Kingdom of Morocco
- His Excellency Mr. Fahd Bin Mahmoud Al-Said, Deputy Prime Minister of the Sultanate of Oman
- His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian National Authority and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization
- His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar
- The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- His Excellency Ali Mohammed Ghedi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Somalia
- His Excellency Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan
- His Excellency Bashar al-Asad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic
- His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Ghannouchi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tunisia
- His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates
- His Excellency Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen